REAL STORIES FROM INSIDE FILES!

MAN COMICS

A BIG 52 PAGE MAGAZINE!

10¢ K

DECEMBER

MARVEL COMIC

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

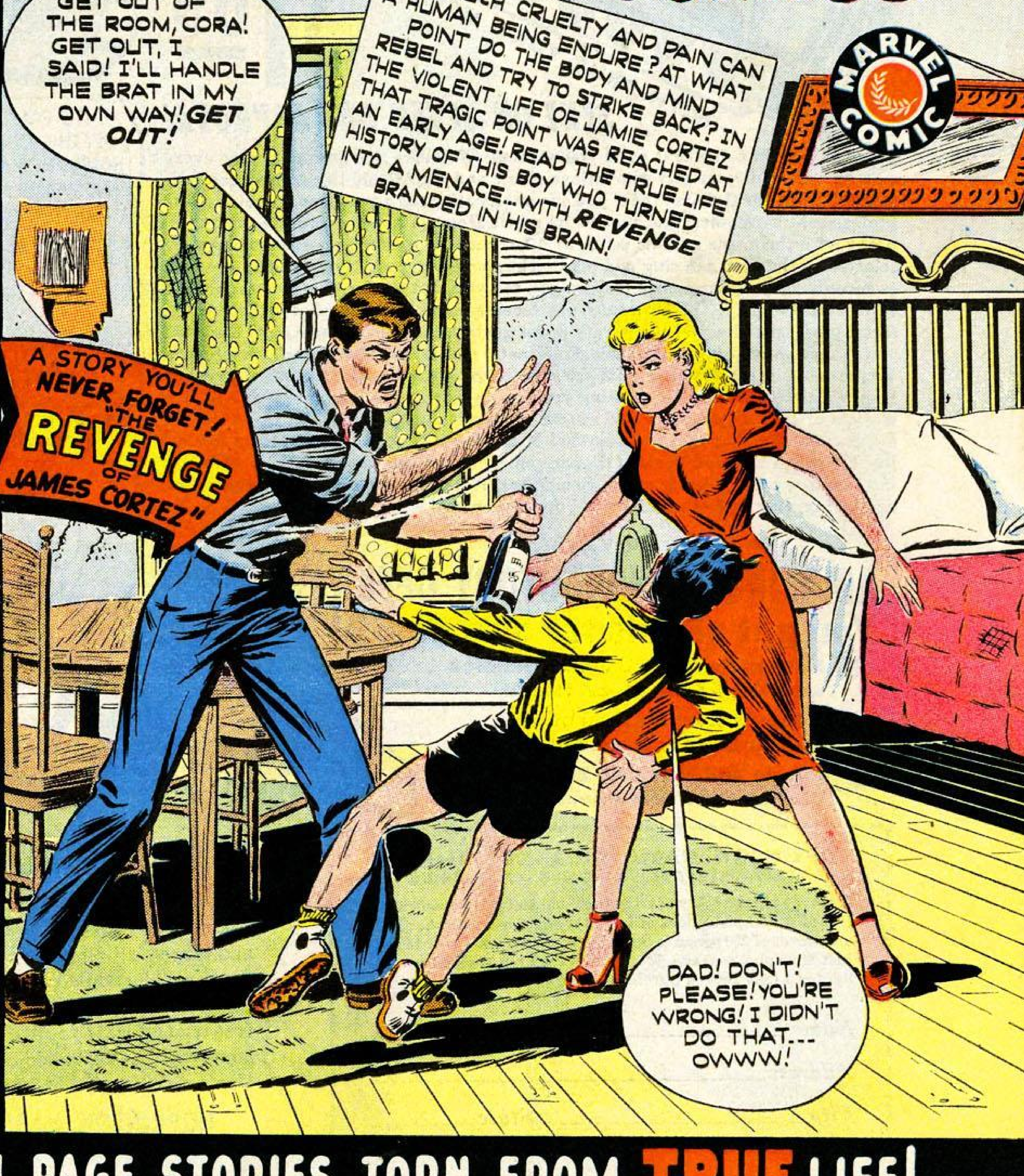
THE SOUL-STIRRING HISTORY OF KENNETH BARKLEY, THE BOY FROM WYOMING WHOSE PROBLEM SEEMED TO HAVE NO SOLUTION... HE SHAMED HIS ENTIRE FAMILY!

•

DON'T MISS THIS ACTUAL TALE OF ADVENTURE AND CONFLICT IN THE FAR WEST...

"THE MAN WHO **DIDN'T COUNT!**"

DON'T MISS THIS SCENE: KEN STANDS UP TO THE BULLY!



HOW MUCH CRUELTY AND PAIN CAN A HUMAN BEING ENDURE? AT WHAT POINT DO THE BODY AND MIND REBEL AND TRY TO STRIKE BACK? IN THE VIOLENT LIFE OF JAMIE CORTEZ THAT TRAGIC POINT WAS REACHED AT AN EARLY AGE! READ THE TRUE LIFE HISTORY OF THIS BOY WHO TURNED INTO A MENACE...WITH ***REVENGE*** BRANDED IN HIS BRAIN!

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GET OUT OF THE ROOM, CORA! GET OUT, I SAID! I'LL HANDLE THE BRAT IN MY OWN WAY! GET OUT!
DAD! DON'T! PLEASE! YOU'RE WRONG! I DIDN'T DO THAT... OWWW!

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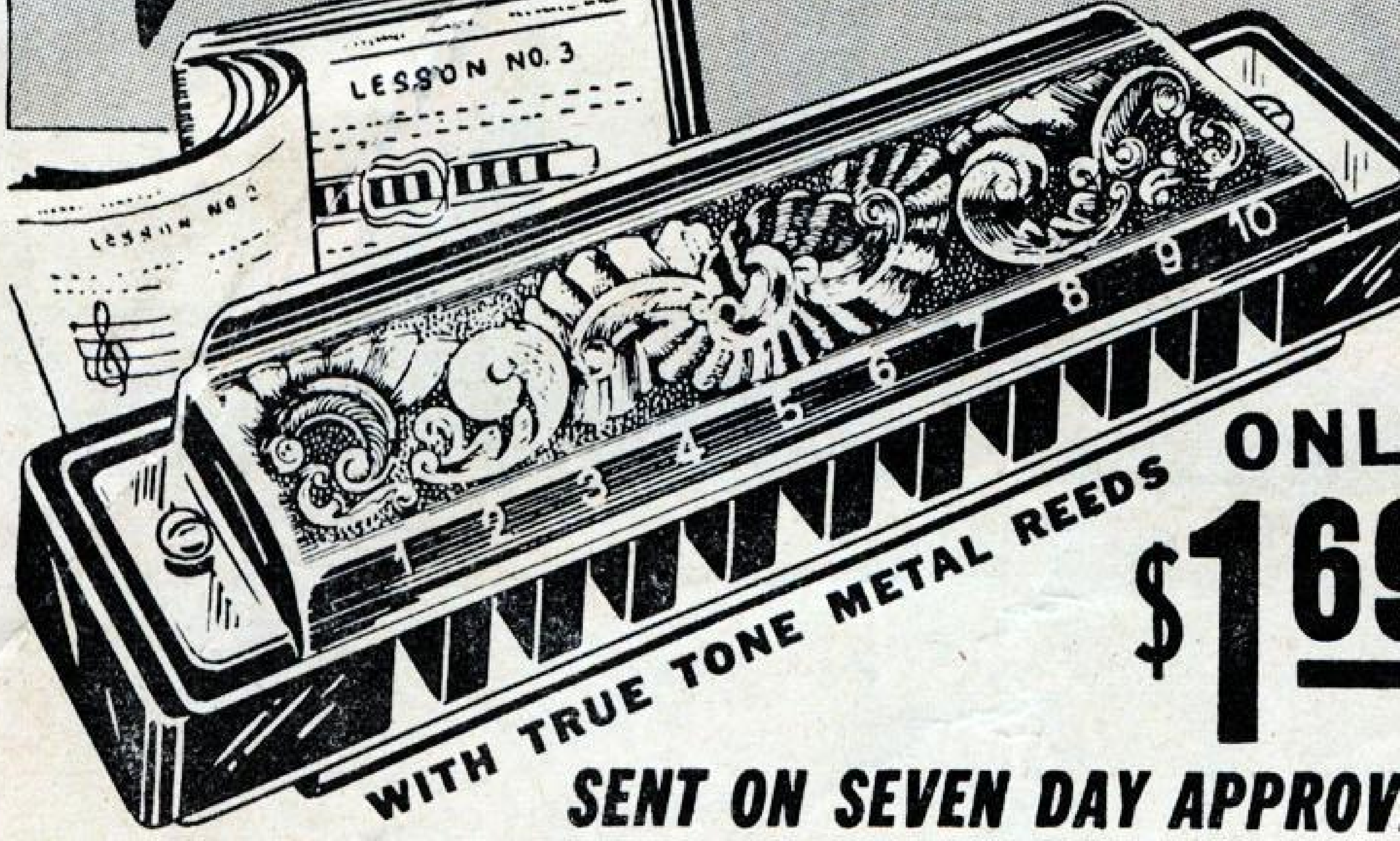

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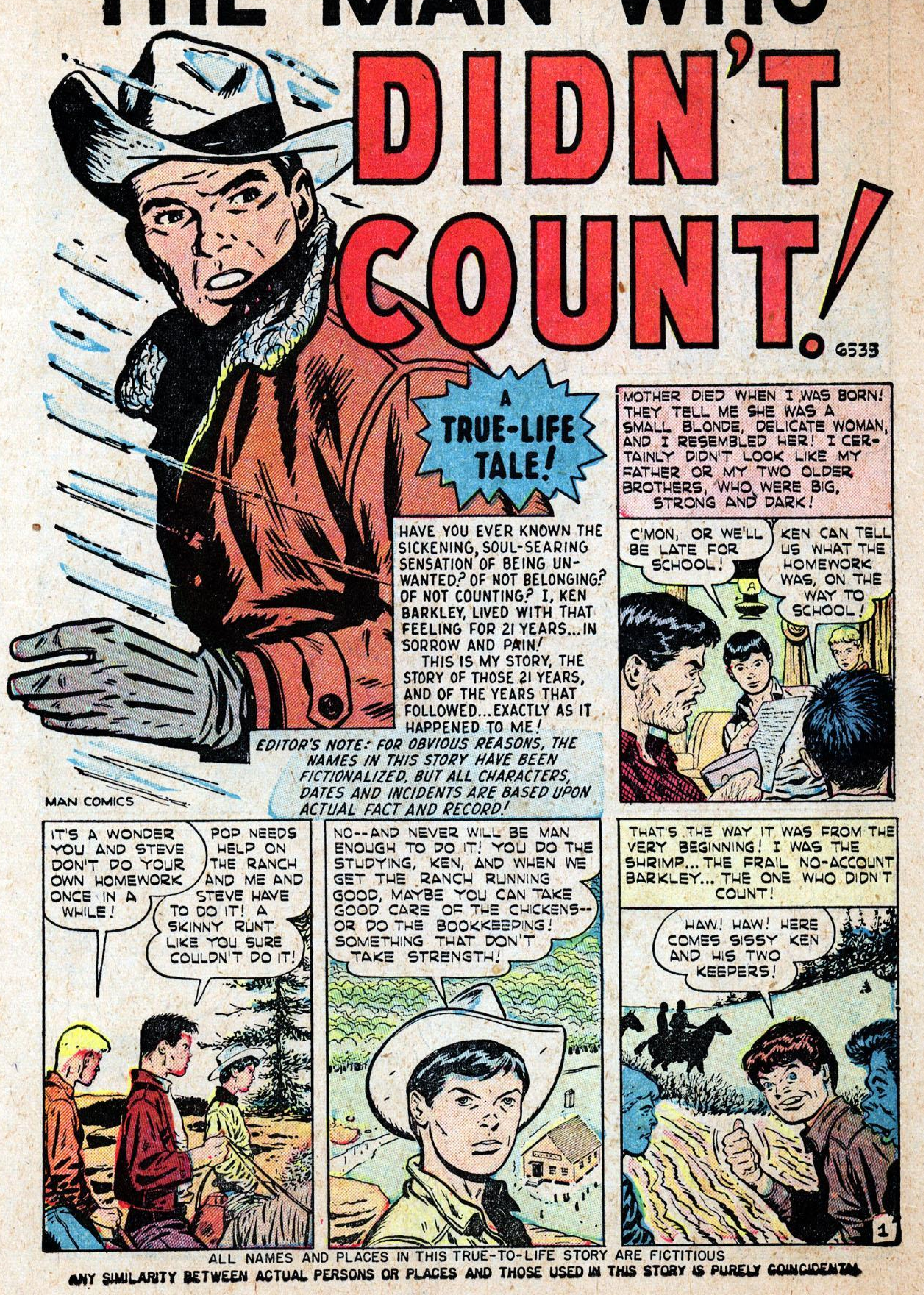
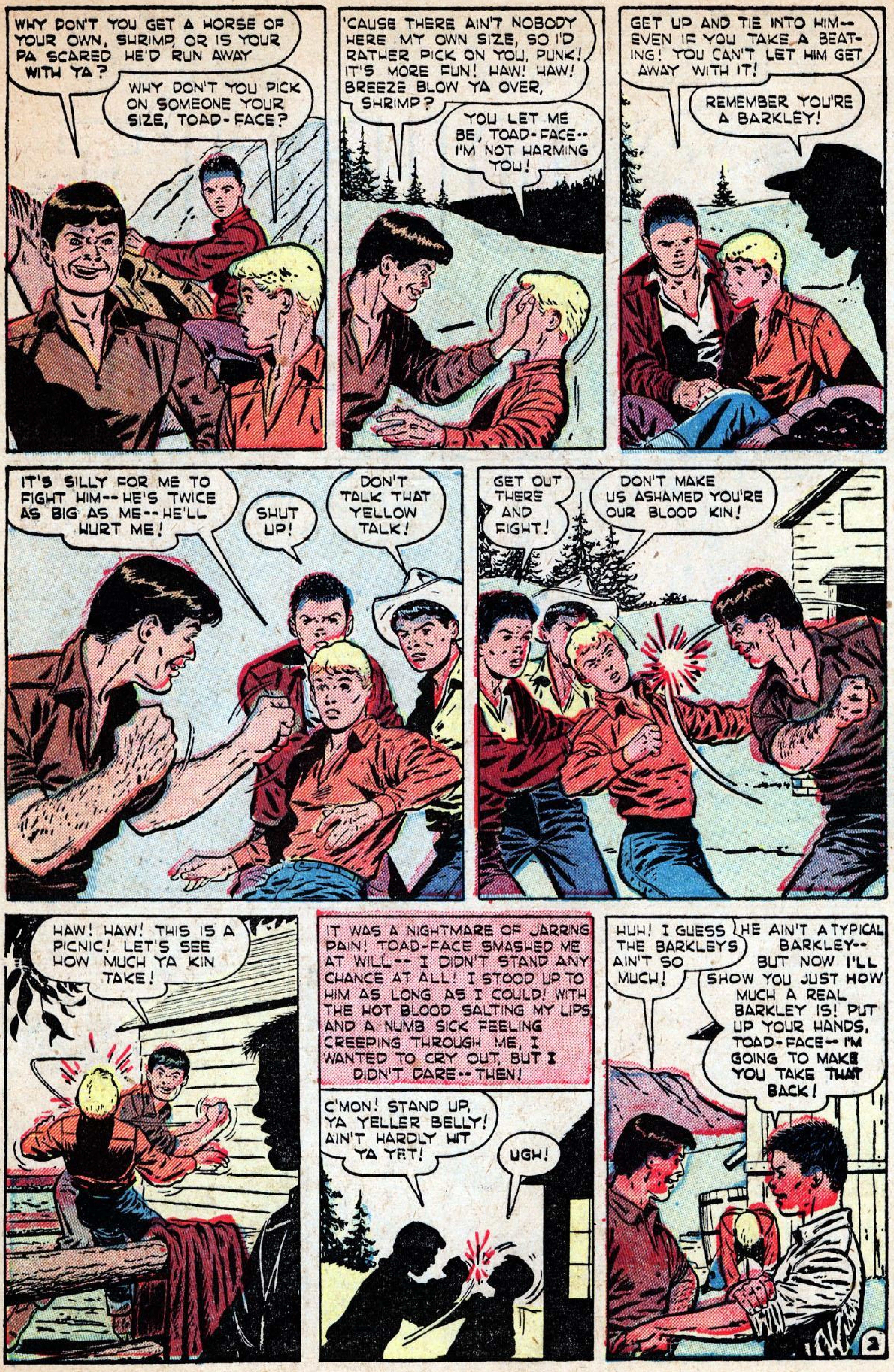
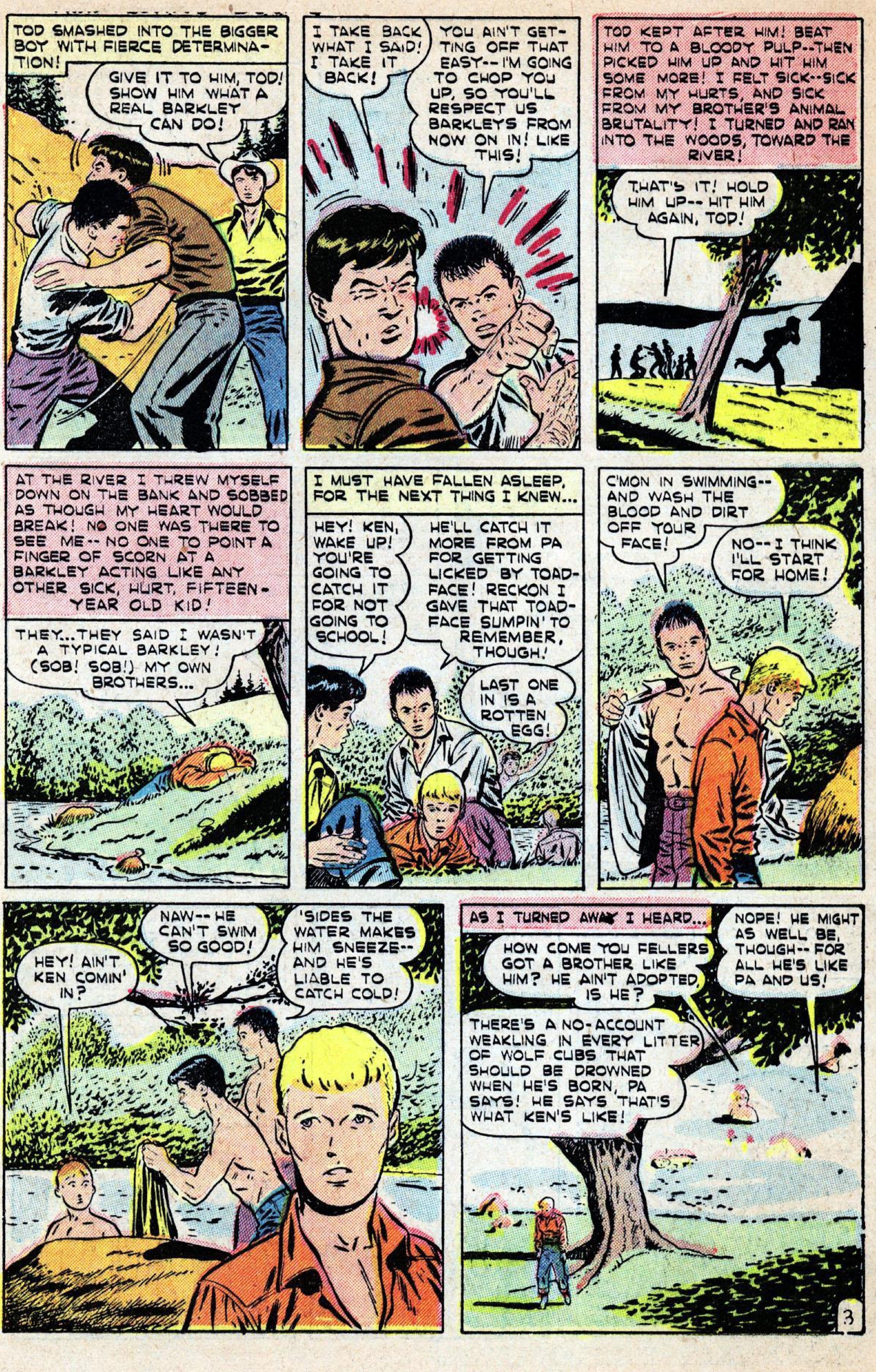
Editorial Consultant: Jean Thompson, M.D., Psychiatrist

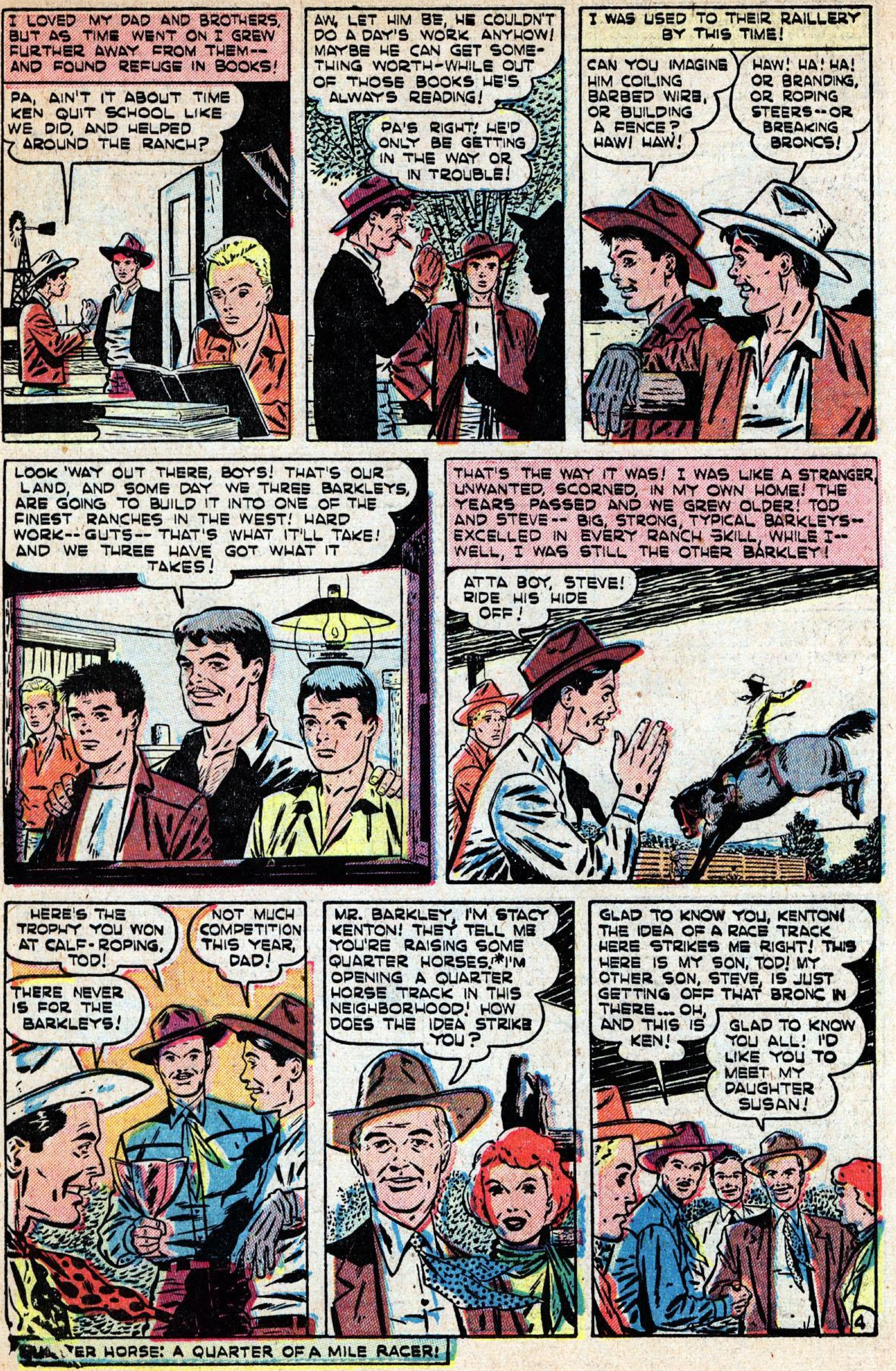
THE MAN WHO DIDN'T COUNT!


6533
A TRUE-LIFE TALE!
MOTHER DIED WHEN I WAS BORN! THEY TELL ME SHE WAS A SMALL BLONDE, DELICATE WOMAN, AND I RESEMBLED HER! I CERTAINLY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE MY FATHER OR MY TWO OLDER BROTHERS, WHO WERE BIG, STRONG AND DARK!
HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN THE SICKENING, SOUL-SEARING SENSATION OF BEING UNWANTED? OF NOT BELONGING? OF NOT COUNTING? I, KEN BARKLEY, LIVED WITH THAT FEELING FOR 21 YEARS... IN SORROW AND PAIN! THIS IS MY STORY, THE STORY OF THOSE 21 YEARS, AND OF THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED... EXACTLY AS IT HAPPENED TO ME!
C'MON, OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
KEN CAN TELL US WHAT THE HOMEWORK WAS, ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL!
EDITOR'S NOTE: FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THE NAMES IN THIS STORY HAVE BEEN FICTIONALIZED, BUT ALL CHARACTERS, DATES AND INCIDENTS ARE BASED UPON ACTUAL FACT AND RECORD!
MAN COMICS
IT'S A WONDER YOU AND STEVE DON'T DO YOUR OWN HOMEWORK ONCE IN A WHILE!
POP NEEDS HELP ON THE RANCH AND ME AND STEVE HAVE TO DO IT! A SKINNY RUNT LIKE YOU SURE COULDN'T DO IT!
NO--AND NEVER WILL BE MAN ENOUGH TO DO IT! YOU DO THE STUDYING, KEN, AND WHEN WE GET THE RANCH RUNNING GOOD, MAYBE YOU CAN TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE CHICKENS-- OR DO THE BOOKKEEPING! SOMETHING THAT DON'T TAKE STRENGTH!
THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING! I WAS THE SHRIMP... THE FRAIL NO-ACCOUNT BARKLEY... THE ONE WHO DIDN'T COUNT!
HAW! HAW! HERE COMES SISSY KEN AND HIS TWO KEEPERS!

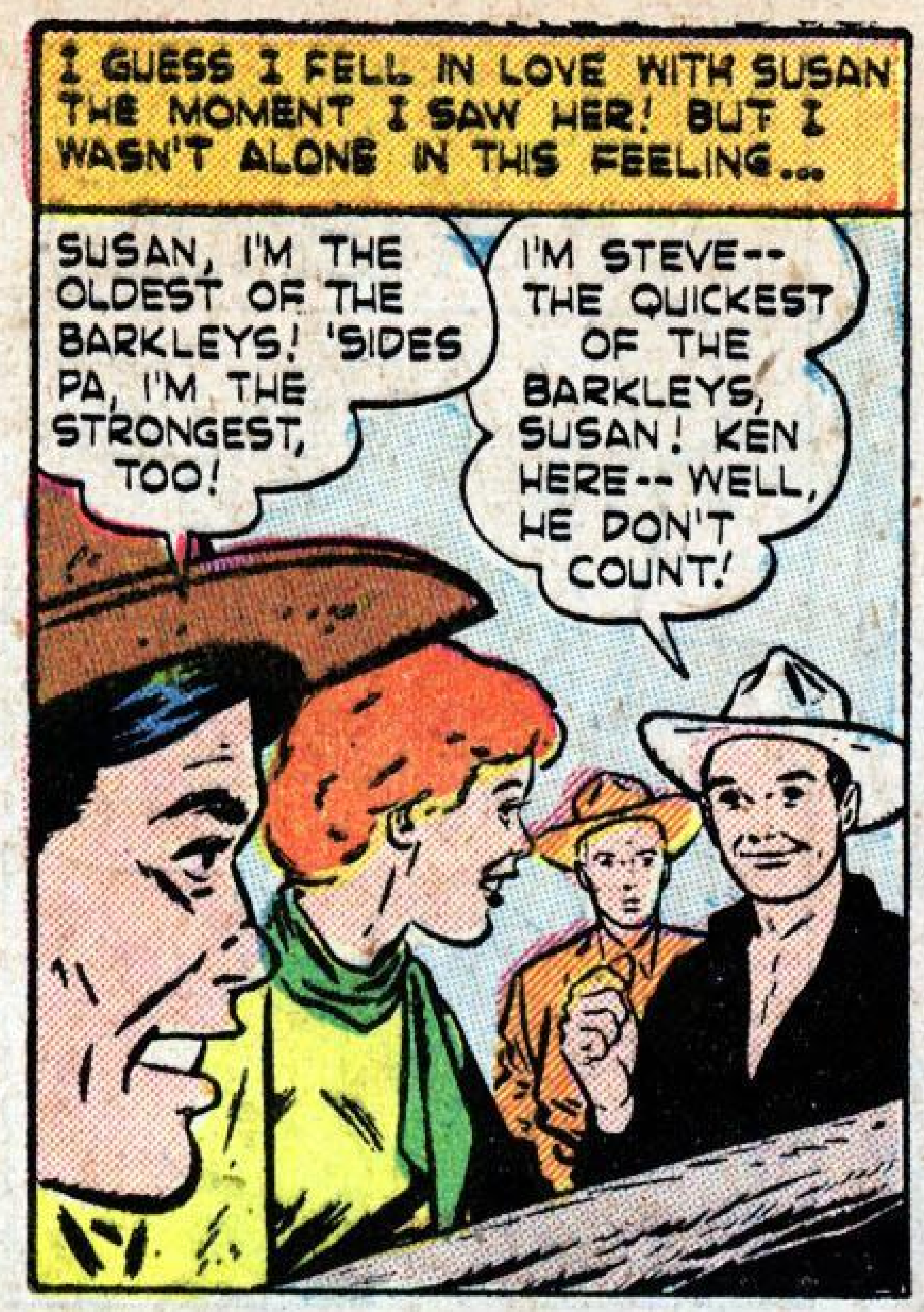
ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THIS TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THIS STORY IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

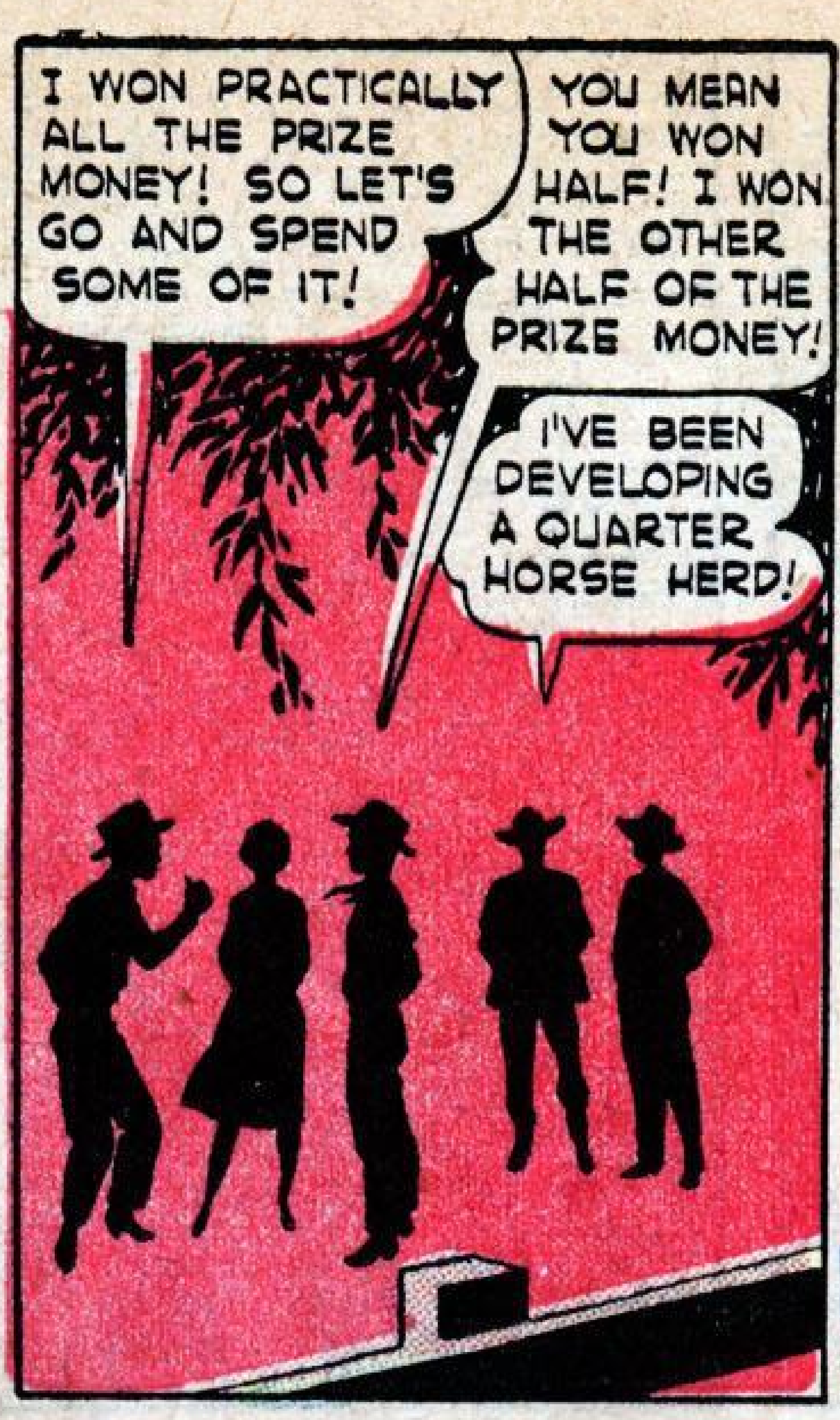

WHY DON'T YOU GET A HORSE OF YOUR OWN, SHRIMP, OR IS YOUR PA SCARED HE'D RUN AWAY WITH YA?
WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR SIZE, TOAD-FACE?
'CAUSE THERE AIN'T NOBODY HERE MY OWN SIZE, SO I'D RATHER PICK ON YOU, PUNK! IT'S MORE FUN! HAW! HAW! BREEZE BLOW YA OVER, SHRIMP?
YOU LET ME BE, TOAD-FACE-- I'M NOT HARMING YOU!
GET UP AND TIE INTO HIM-- EVEN IF YOU TAKE A BEATING! YOU CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT!
REMEMBER YOU'RE A BARKLEY!
IT'S SILLY FOR ME TO FIGHT HIM-- HE'S TWICE AS BIG AS ME-- HE'LL HURT ME!
SHUT UP!
DON'T TALK THAT YELLOW TALK!
GET OUT THERE AND FIGHT!
DON'T MAKE US ASHAMED YOU'RE OUR BLOOD KIN!
HAW! HAW! THIS IS A PICNIC! LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YA KIN TAKE!
IT WAS A NIGHTMARE OF JARRING PAIN! TOAD-FACE SMASHED ME AT WILL-- I DIDN'T STAND ANY CHANCE AT ALL! I STOOD UP TO HIM AS LONG AS I COULD! WITH THE HOT BLOOD SALTING MY LIPS AND A NUMB SICK FEELING CREEPING THROUGH ME, I WANTED TO CRY OUT, BUT I DIDN'T DARE-- THEN!
C'MON! STAND UP, YA YELLER BELLY! AIN'T HARDLY HIT YA YET!
UGH!
HUH! I GUESS THE BARKLEYS AIN'T SO MUCH!
HE AIN'T A TYPICAL BARKLEY-- BUT NOW I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW MUCH A REAL BARKLEY IS! PUT UP YOUR HANDS, TOAD-FACE-- I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU TAKE THAT BACK!

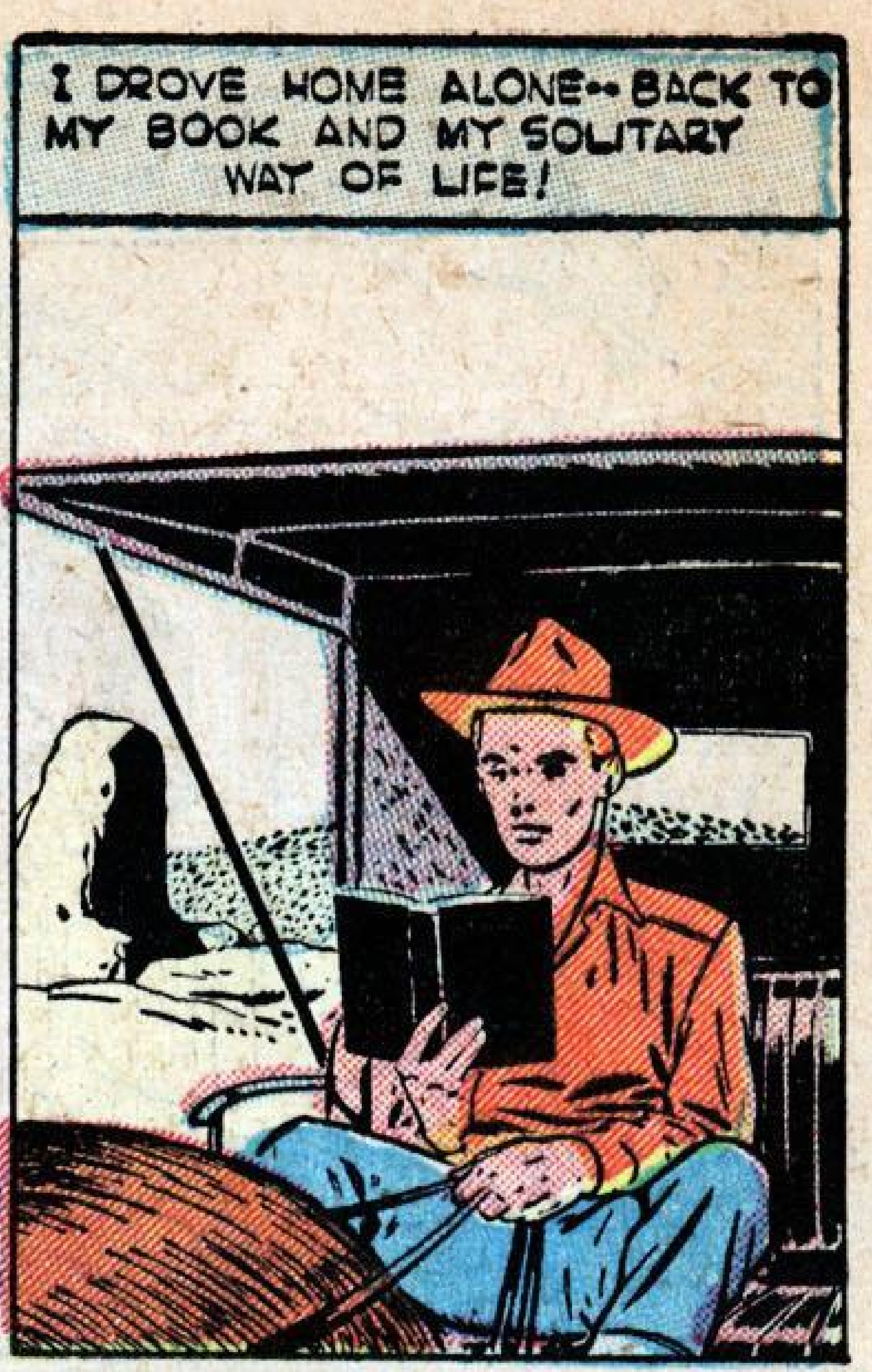

TOD SMASHED INTO THE BIGGER BOY WITH FIERCE DETERMINATION!
GIVE IT TO HIM, TOD! SHOW HIM WHAT A REAL BARKLEY CAN DO!
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID! I TAKE IT BACK!
YOU AIN'T GETTING OFF THAT EASY-- I'M GOING TO CHOP YOU UP, SO YOU'LL RESPECT US BARKLEYS FROM NOW ON IN! LIKE THIS!
TOD KEPT AFTER HIM! BEAT HIM TO A BLOODY PULP--THEN PICKED HIM UP AND HIT HIM SOME MORE! I FELT SICK--SICK FROM MY HURTS, AND SICK FROM MY BROTHER'S ANIMAL BRUTALITY! I TURNED AND RAN INTO THE WOODS, TOWARD THE RIVER!
THAT'S IT! HOLD HIM UP-- HIT HIM AGAIN, TOD!
AT THE RIVER I THREW MYSELF DOWN ON THE BANK AND SOBBED AS THOUGH MY HEART WOULD BREAK! NO ONE WAS THERE TO SEE ME-- NO ONE TO POINT A FINGER OF SCORN AT A BARKLEY ACTING LIKE ANY OTHER SICK, HURT, FIFTEEN-YEAR OLD KID!
THEY...THEY SAID I WASN'T A TYPICAL BARKLEY! (SOB! SOB!) MY OWN BROTHERS...
I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP, FOR THE NEXT THING I KNEW...
HEY! KEN, WAKE UP! YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH IT FOR NOT GOING TO SCHOOL!
HE'LL CATCH IT MORE FROM PA FOR GETTING LICKED BY TOAD-FACE! RECKON I GAVE THAT TOAD-FACE SUMPIN' TO REMEMBER, THOUGH!
LAST ONE IN IS A ROTTEN EGG!
C'MON IN SWIMMING-- AND WASH THE BLOOD AND DIRT OFF YOUR FACE!
NO-- I THINK I'LL START FOR HOME!
HEY! AIN'T KEN COMIN' IN?
NAW-- HE CAN'T SWIM SO GOOD!
'SIDES THE WATER MAKES HIM SNEEZE-- AND HE'S LIABLE TO CATCH COLD!
AS I TURNED AWAY I HEARD...
HOW COME YOU FELLERS GOT A BROTHER LIKE HIM? HE AIN'T ADOPTED, IS HE?
NOPE! HE MIGHT AS WELL BE, THOUGH-- FOR ALL HE'S LIKE PA AND US!
THERE'S A NO-ACCOUNT WEAKLING IN EVERY LITTER OF WOLF CUBS THAT SHOULD BE DROWNED WHEN HE'S BORN, PA SAYS! HE SAYS THAT'S WHAT KEN'S LIKE!

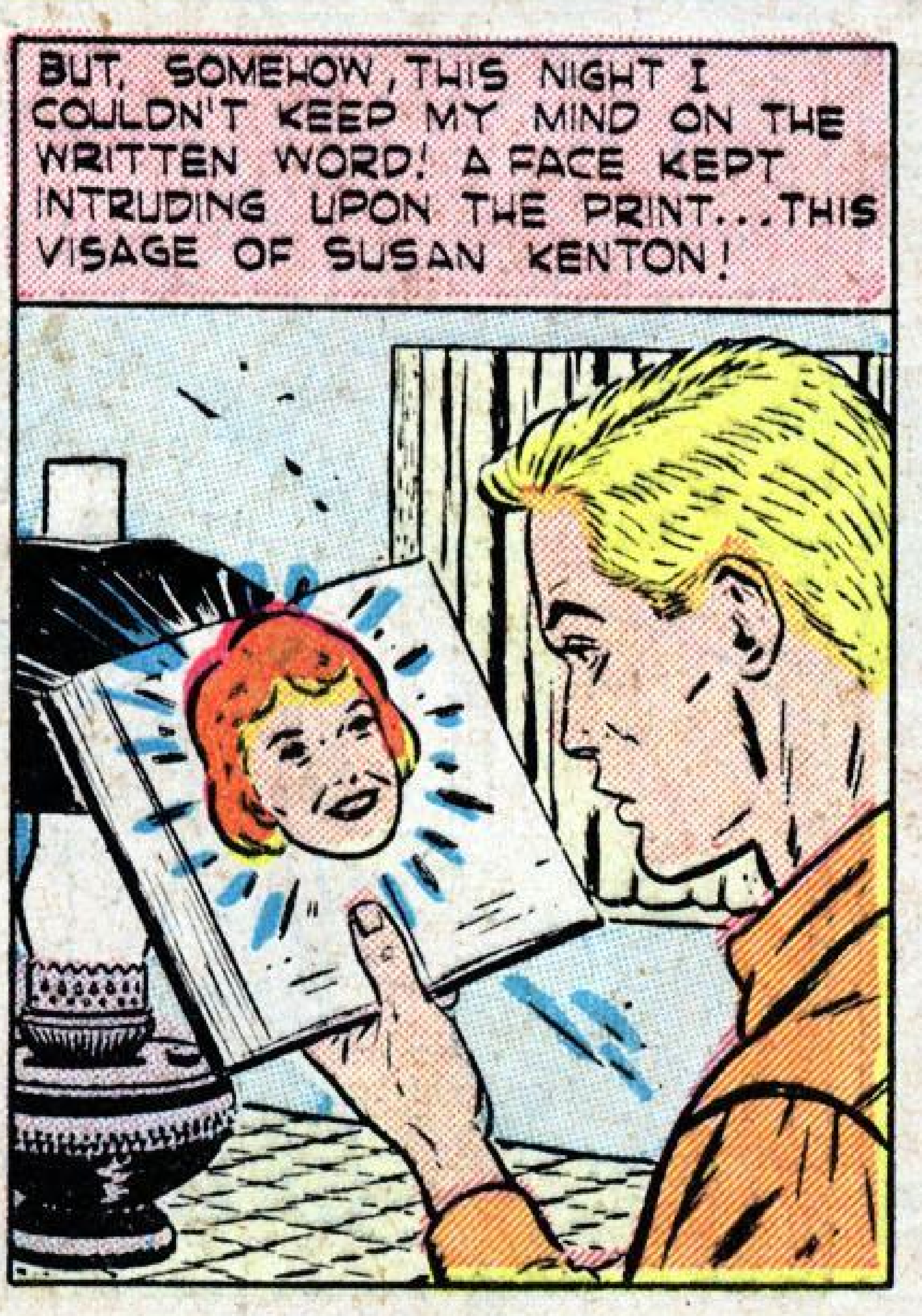

I LOVED MY DAD AND BROTHERS, BUT AS TIME WENT ON I GREW FURTHER AWAY FROM THEM-- AND FOUND REFUGE IN BOOKS!
PA, AIN'T IT ABOUT TIME KEN QUIT SCHOOL LIKE WE DID, AND HELPED AROUND THE RANCH?
AW, LET HIM BE, HE COULDN'T DO A DAY'S WORK ANYHOW! MAYBE HE CAN GET SOMETHING WORTH-WHILE OUT OF THOSE BOOKS HE'S ALWAYS READING!
PA'S RIGHT! HE'D ONLY BE GETTING IN THE WAY OR IN TROUBLE!
I WAS USED TO THEIR RAILLERY BY THIS TIME!
CAN YOU IMAGINE HIM COILING BARBED WIRE, OR BUILDING A FENCE? HAW! HAW!
HAW! HA! HA! OR BRANDING, OR ROPING STEERS--OR BREAKING BRONCS!
LOOK 'WAY OUT THERE, BOYS! THAT'S OUR LAND, AND SOME DAY WE THREE BARKLEYS, ARE GOING TO BUILD IT INTO ONE OF THE FINEST RANCHES IN THE WEST! HARD WORK-- GUTS-- THAT'S WHAT IT'LL TAKE! AND WE THREE HAVE GOT WHAT IT TAKES!
THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS! I WAS LIKE A STRANGER, UNWANTED, SCORNED, IN MY OWN HOME! THE YEARS PASSED AND WE GREW OLDER! TOD AND STEVE-- BIG, STRONG, TYPICAL BARKLEYS-- EXCELLED IN EVERY RANCH SKILL, WHILE I-- WELL, I WAS STILL THE OTHER BARKLEY!
ATTA BOY, STEVE! RIDE HIS HIDE OFF!
HERE'S THE TROPHY YOU WON AT CALF-ROPING, TOD!
NOT MUCH COMPETITION THIS YEAR, DAD!
THERE NEVER IS FOR THE BARKLEYS!
MR. BARKLEY, I'M STACY KENTON! THEY TELL ME YOU'RE RAISING SOME QUARTER HORSES,* I'M OPENING A QUARTER HORSE TRACK IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD! HOW DOES THE IDEA STRIKE YOU?
GLAD TO KNOW YOU, KENTON! THE IDEA OF A RACE TRACK HERE STRIKES ME RIGHT! THIS HERE IS MY SON, TOD! MY OTHER SON, STEVE, IS JUST GETTING OFF THAT BRONC IN THERE... OH, AND THIS IS KEN!
GLAD TO KNOW YOU ALL! I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY DAUGHTER SUSAN!

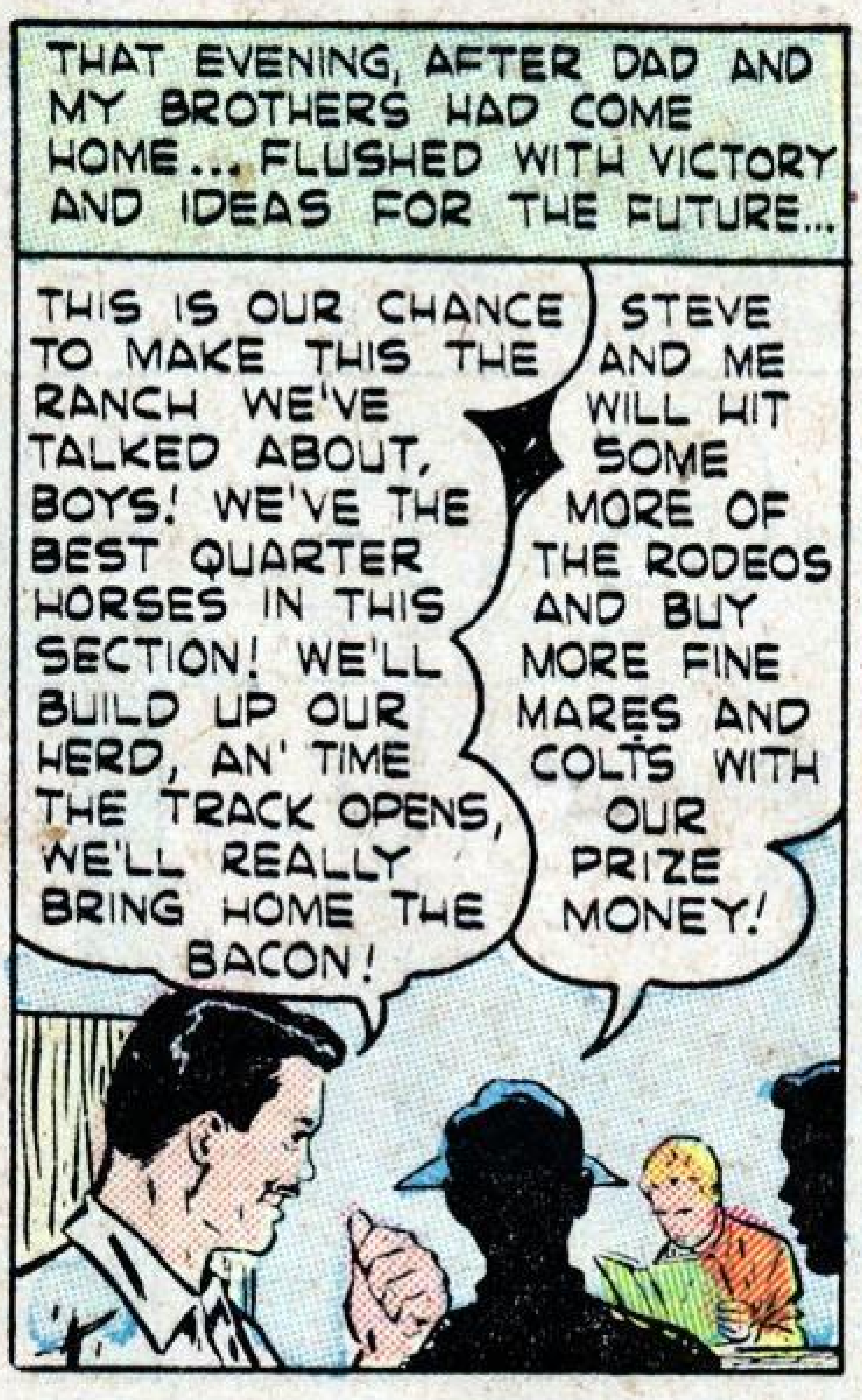
*QUARTER HORSE: A QUARTER OF A MILE RACER!

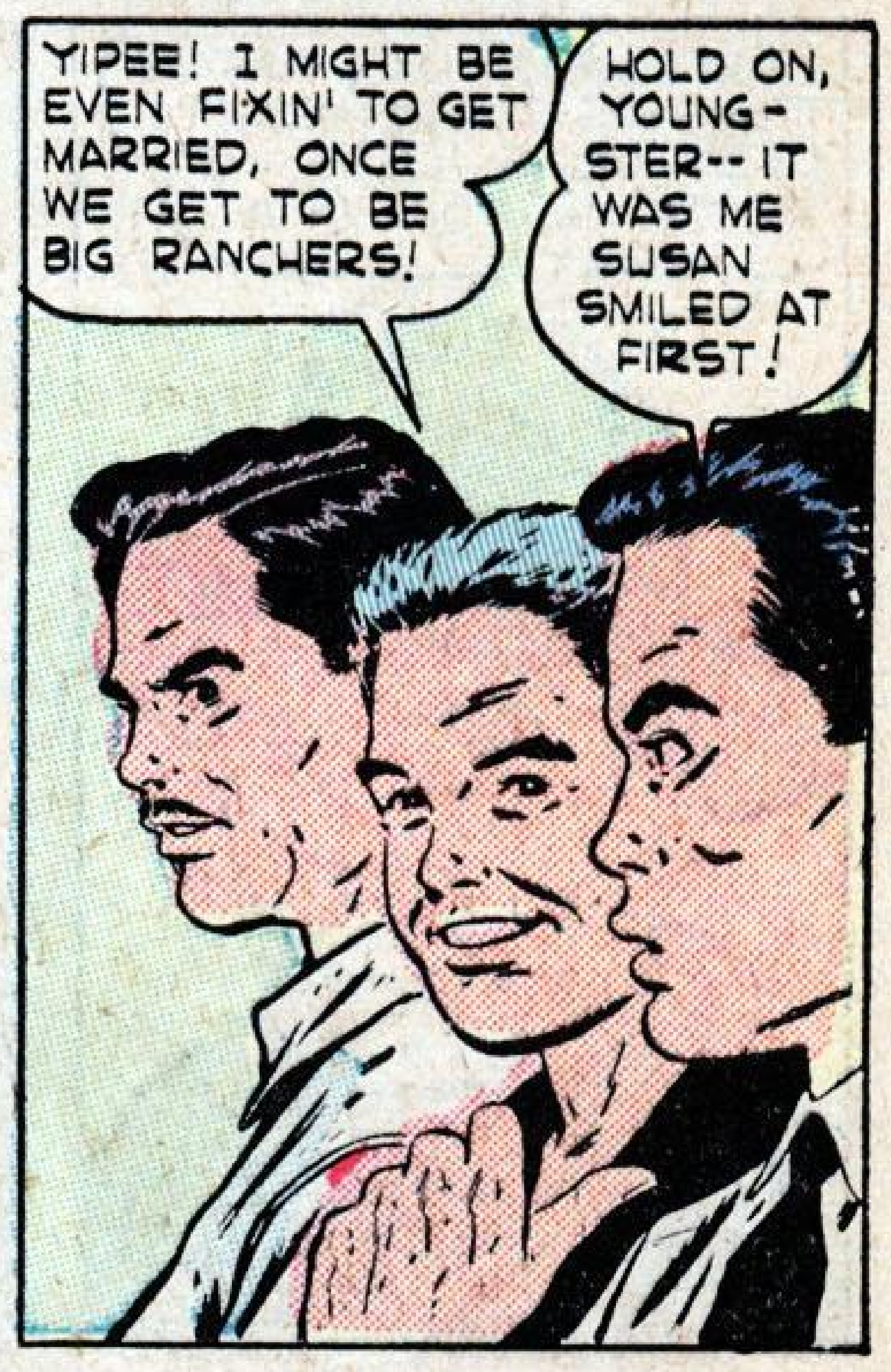

I GUESS I FELL IN LOVE WITH SUSAN THE MOMENT I SAW HER! BUT I WASN'T ALONE IN THIS FEELING...
SUSAN, I'M THE OLDEST OF THE BARKLEYS! 'SIDES PA, I'M THE STRONGEST, TOO!
I'M STEVE-- THE QUICKEST OF THE BARKLEYS, SUSAN! KEN HERE-- WELL, HE DON'T COUNT!

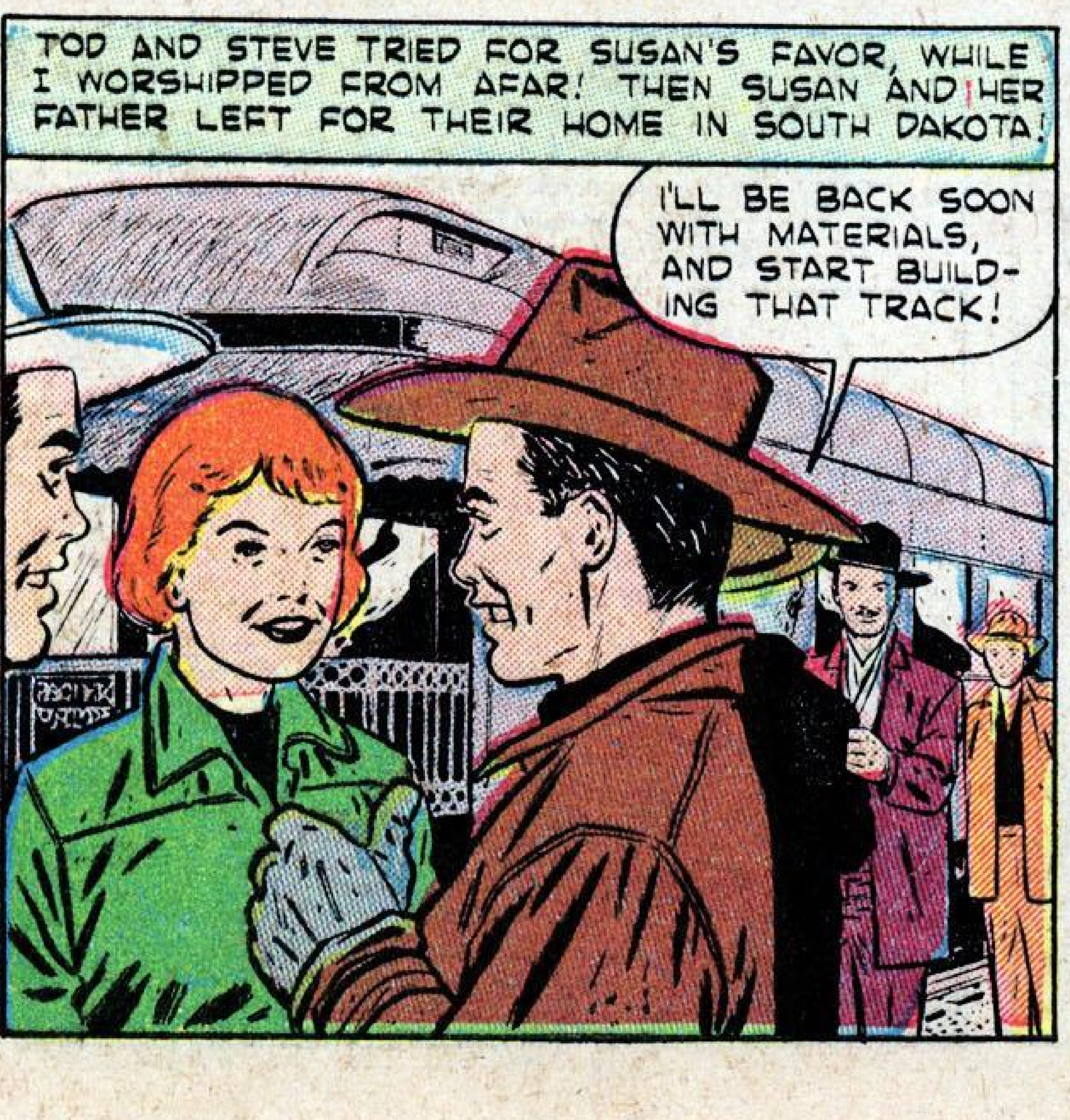

I WON PRACTICALLY ALL THE PRIZE MONEY! SO LET'S GO AND SPEND SOME OF IT!
YOU MEAN YOU WON HALF! I WON THE OTHER HALF OF THE PRIZE MONEY!
I'VE BEEN DEVELOPING A QUARTER HORSE HERD!

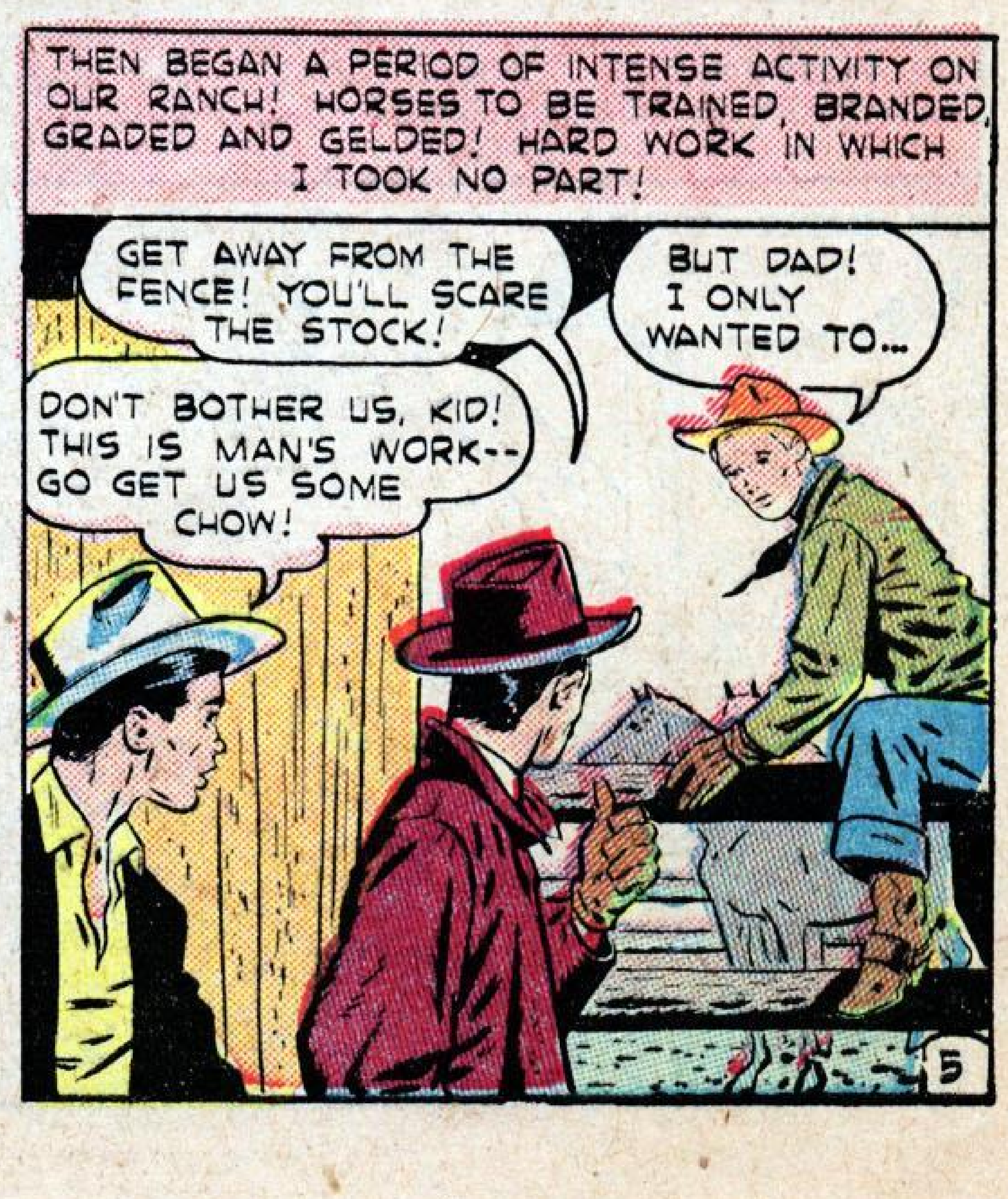

I DROVE HOME ALONE-- BACK TO MY BOOK AND MY SOLITARY WAY OF LIFE!

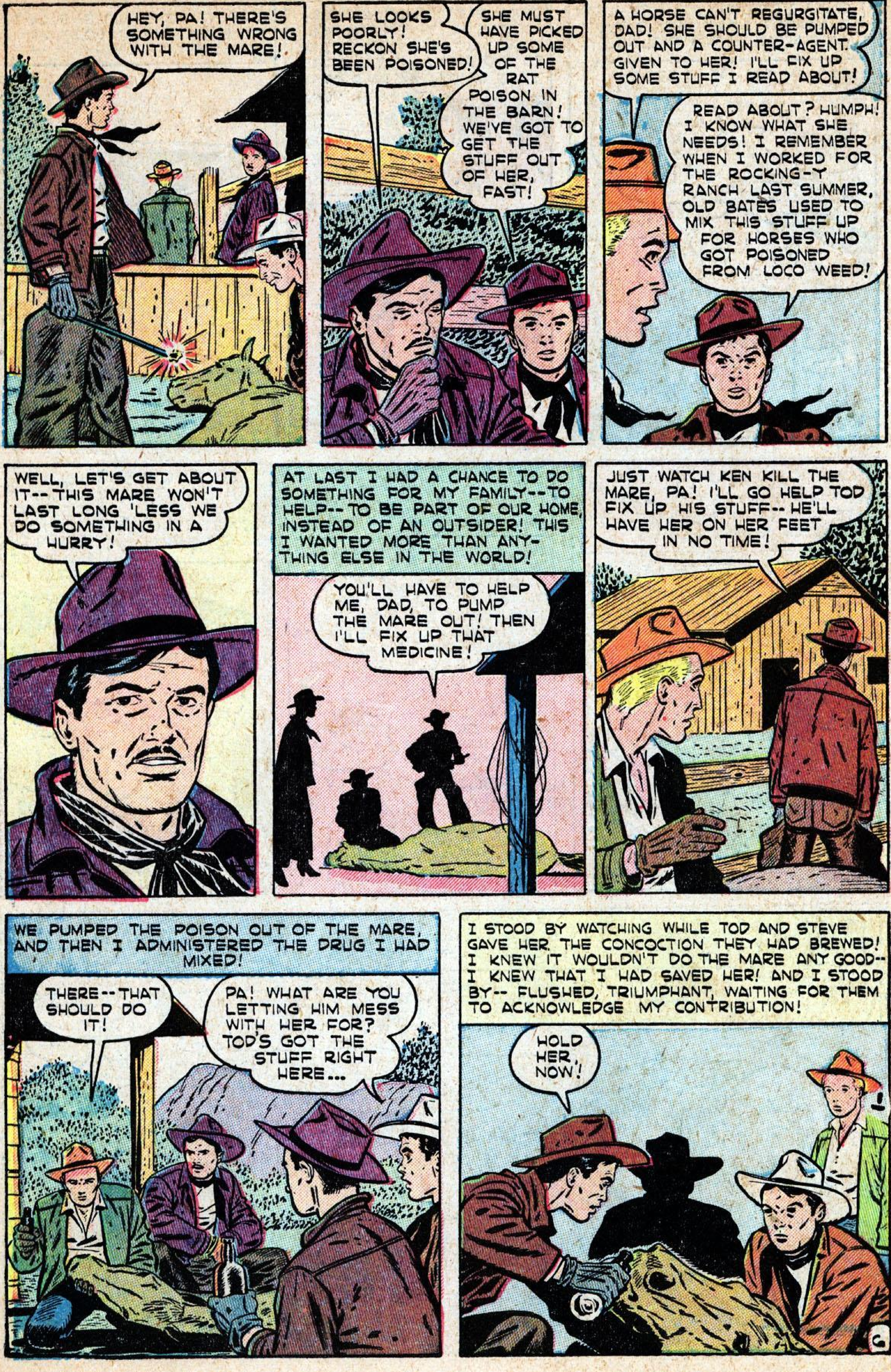

BUT, SOMEHOW, THIS NIGHT I COULDN'T KEEP MY MIND ON THE WRITTEN WORD! A FACE KEPT INTRUDING UPON THE PRINT... THIS VISAGE OF SUSAN KENTON!

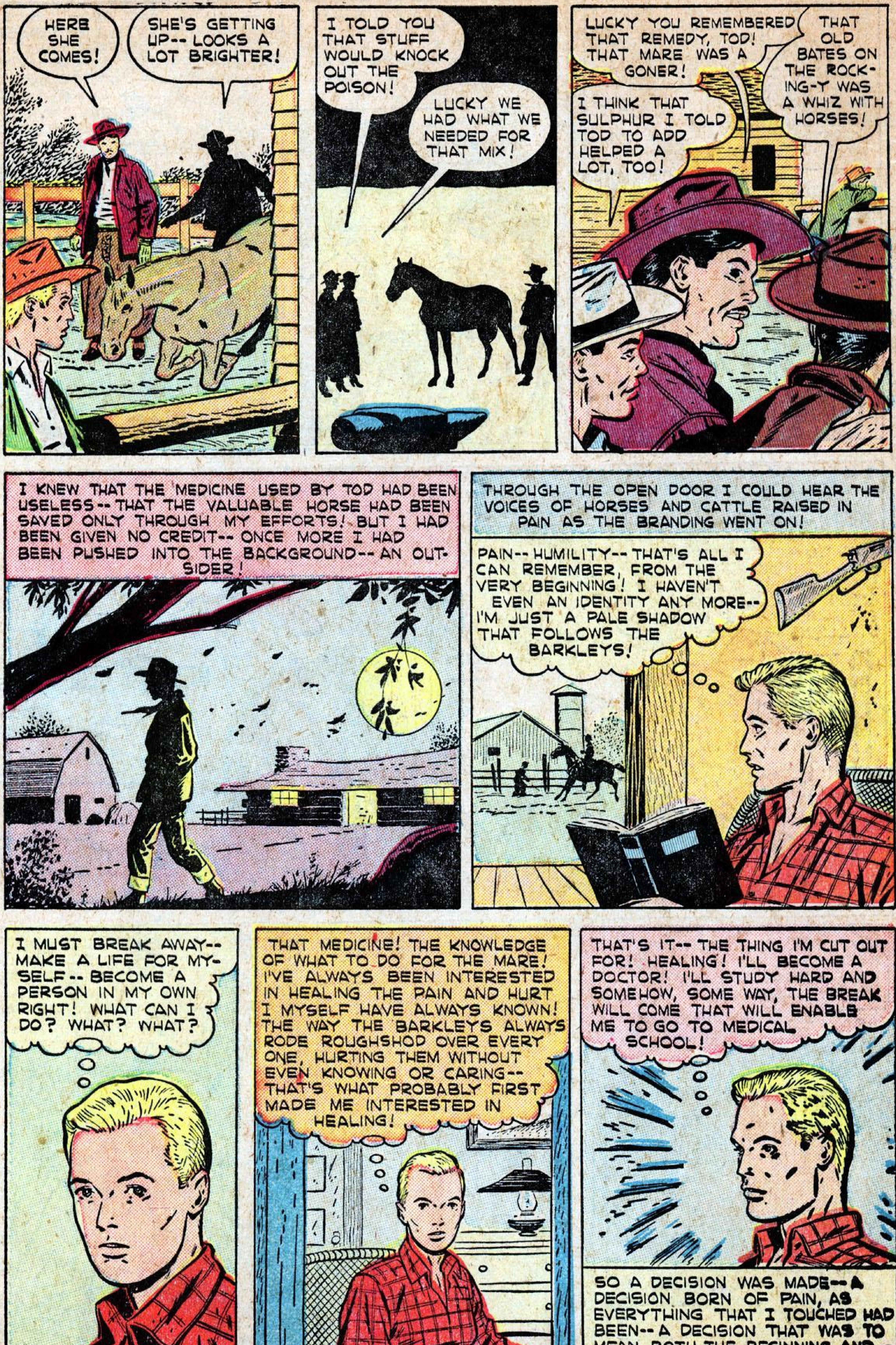

THAT EVENING, AFTER DAD AND MY BROTHERS HAD COME HOME... FLUSHED WITH VICTORY AND IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE...
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO MAKE THIS THE RANCH WE'VE TALKED ABOUT, BOYS! WE'VE THE BEST QUARTER HORSES IN THIS SECTION! WE'LL BUILD UP OUR HERD, AN' TIME THE TRACK OPENS, WE'LL REALLY BRING HOME THE BACON!
STEVE AND ME WILL HIT SOME MORE OF THE RODEOS AND BUY MORE FINE MARES AND COLTS WITH OUR PRIZE MONEY!

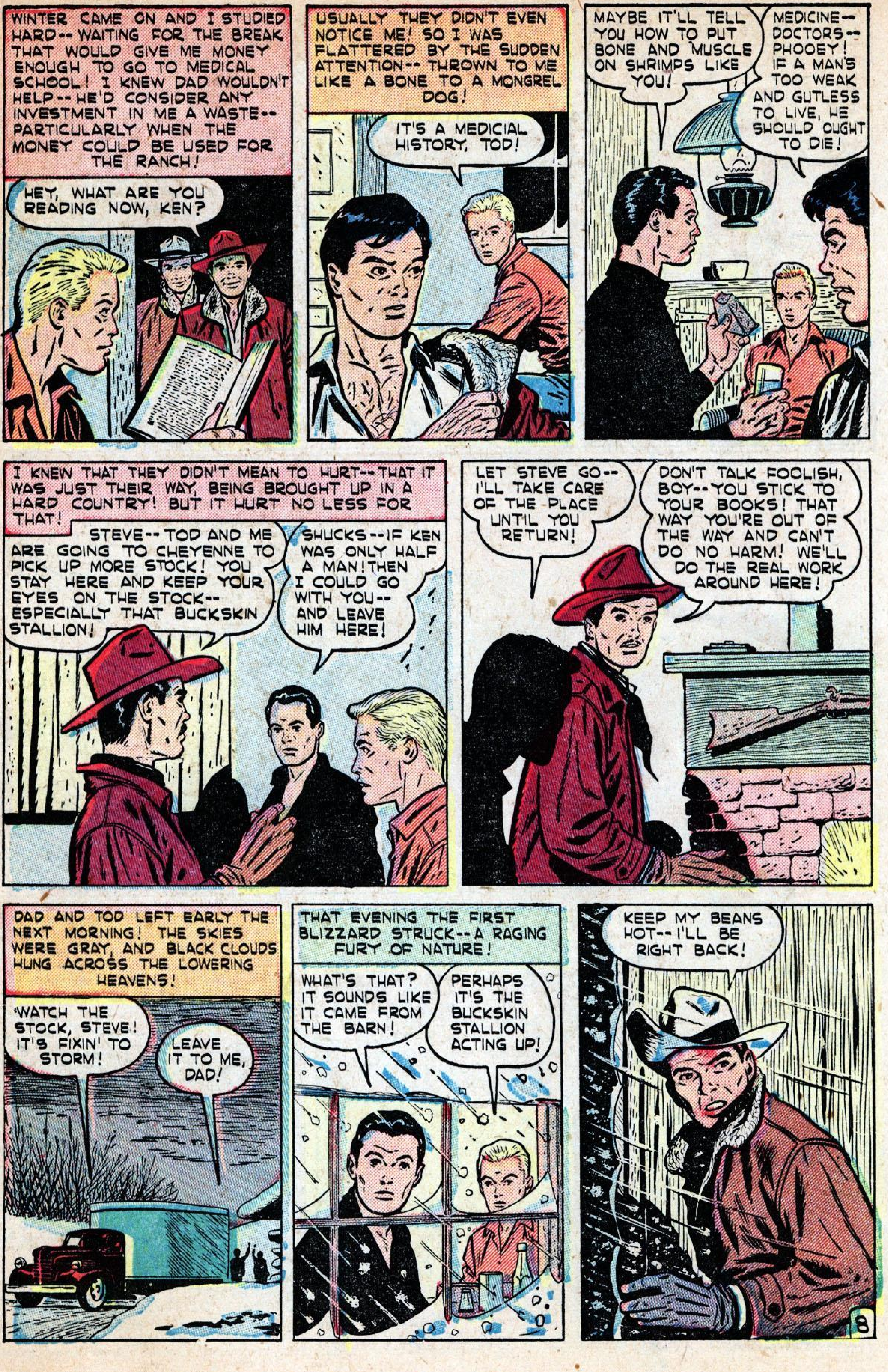

YIPEE! I MIGHT BE EVEN FIXIN' TO GET MARRIED, ONCE WE GET TO BE BIG RANCHERS!
HOLD ON, YOUNGSTER-- IT WAS ME SUSAN SMILED AT FIRST!

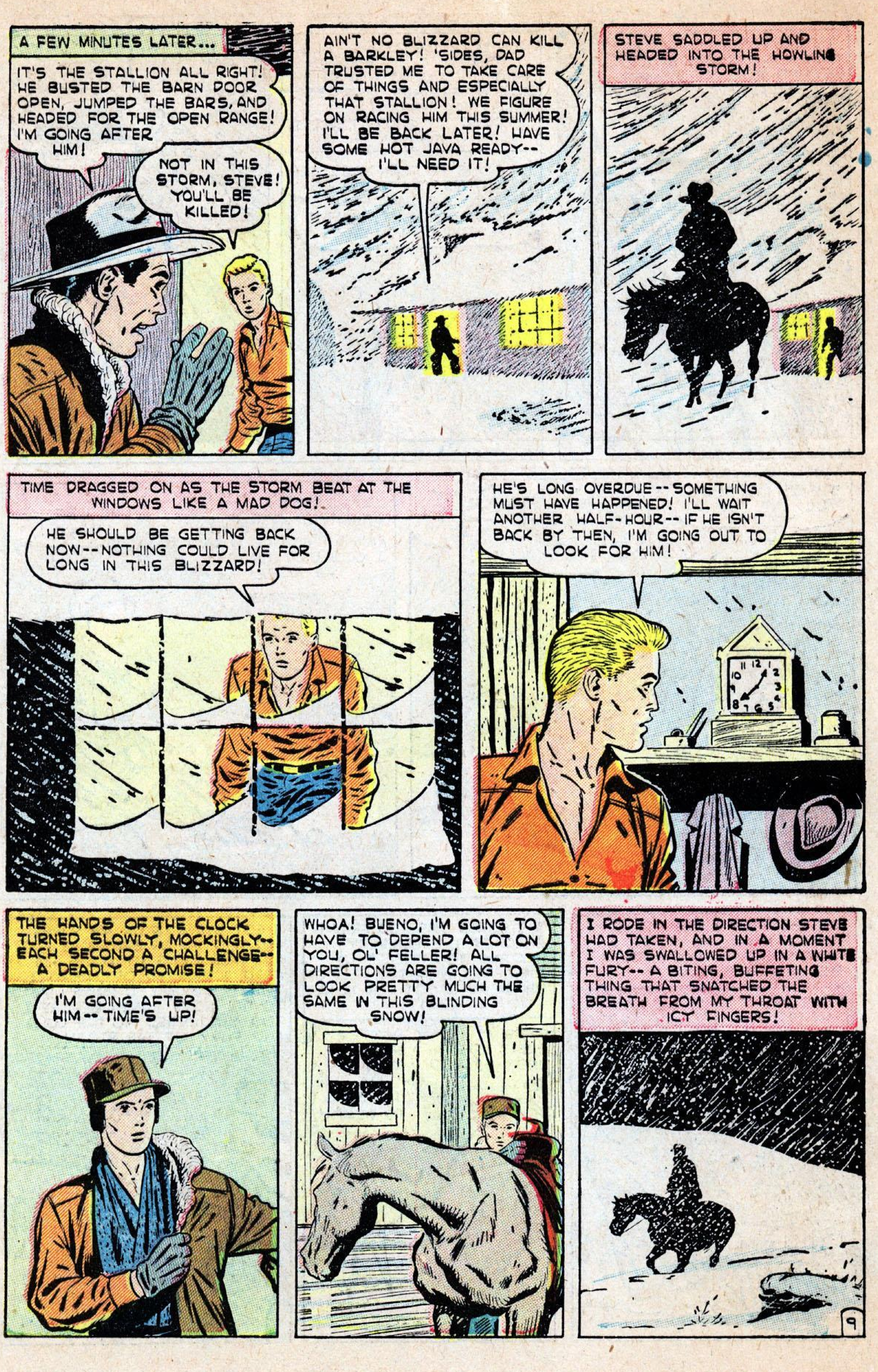

TOD AND STEVE TRIED FOR SUSAN'S FAVOR, WHILE I WORSHIPPED FROM AFAR! THEN SUSAN AND HER FATHER LEFT FOR THEIR HOME IN SOUTH DAKOTA!
I'LL BE BACK SOON WITH MATERIALS, AND START BUILDING THAT TRACK!

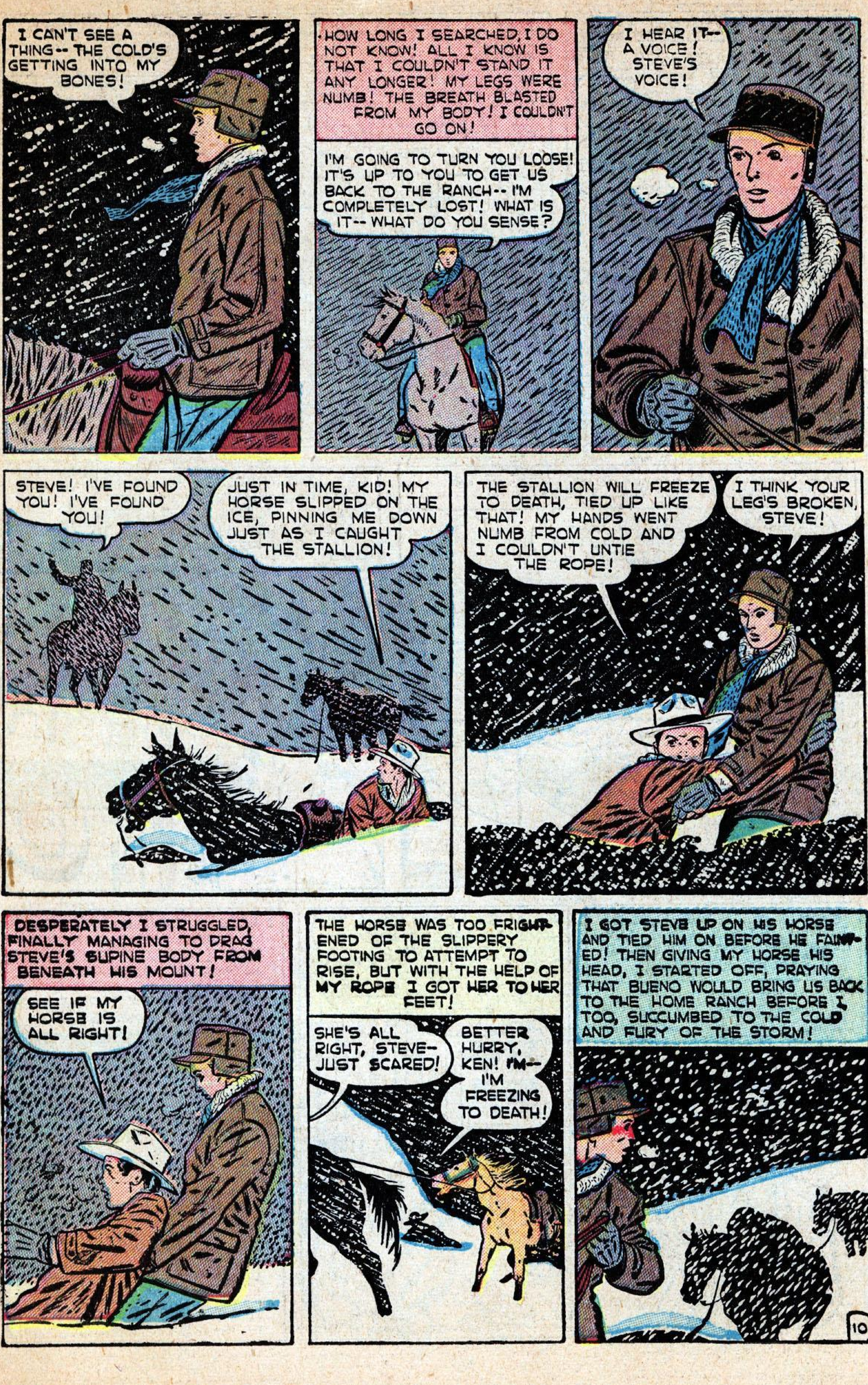

THEN BEGAN A PERIOD OF INTENSE ACTIVITY ON OUR RANCH! HORSES TO BE TRAINED, BRANDED, GRADED AND GELDED! HARD WORK IN WHICH I TOOK NO PART!
GET AWAY FROM THE FENCE! YOU'LL SCARE THE STOCK!
BUT DAD! I ONLY WANTED TO...
DON'T BOTHER US, KID! THIS IS MAN'S WORK-- GO GET US SOME CHOW!

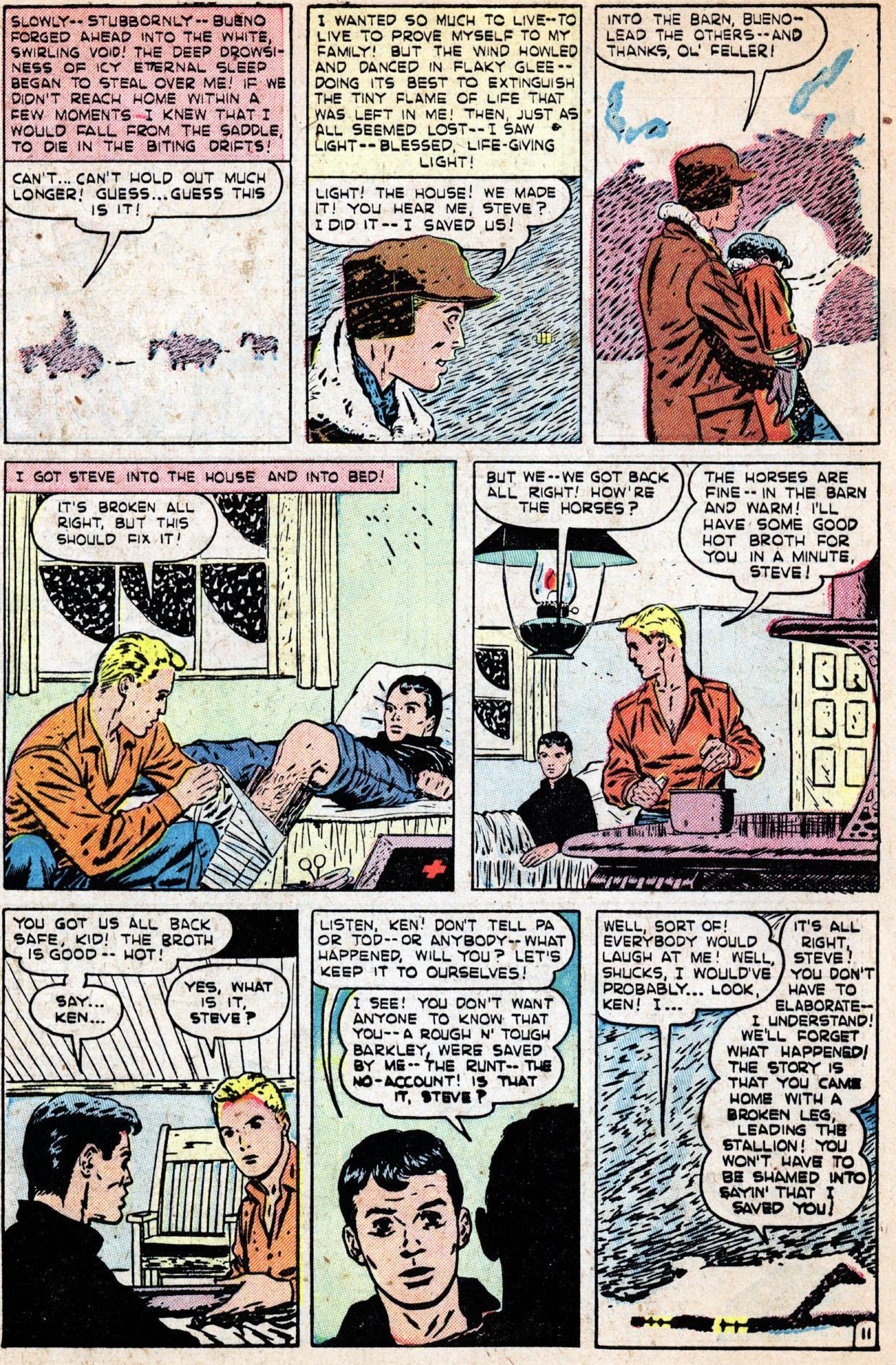

HEY, PA! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE MARE!
SHE LOOKS POORLY! RECKON SHE'S BEEN POISONED!
SHE MUST HAVE PICKED UP SOME OF THE RAT POISON IN THE BARN! WE'VE GOT TO GET THE STUFF OUT OF HER, FAST!
A HORSE CAN'T REGURGITATE, DAD! SHE SHOULD BE PUMPED OUT AND A COUNTER-AGENT GIVEN TO HER! I'LL FIX UP SOME STUFF I READ ABOUT!
READ ABOUT? HUMPH! I KNOW WHAT SHE NEEDS! I REMEMBER WHEN I WORKED FOR THE ROCKING-Y RANCH LAST SUMMER, OLD BATES USED TO MIX THIS STUFF UP FOR HORSES WHO GOT POISONED FROM LOCO WEED!
WELL, LET'S GET ABOUT IT-- THIS MARE WON'T LAST LONG 'LESS WE DO SOMETHING IN A HURRY!
AT LAST I HAD A CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING FOR MY FAMILY--TO HELP--TO BE PART OF OUR HOME, INSTEAD OF AN OUTSIDER! THIS I WANTED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD!
YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP ME, DAD, TO PUMP THE MARE OUT! THEN I'LL FIX UP THAT MEDICINE!
JUST WATCH KEN KILL THE MARE, PA! I'LL GO HELP TOD FIX UP HIS STUFF-- HE'LL HAVE HER ON HER FEET IN NO TIME!
WE PUMPED THE POISON OUT OF THE MARE, AND THEN I ADMINISTERED THE DRUG I HAD MIXED!
THERE--THAT SHOULD DO IT!
PA! WHAT ARE YOU LETTING HIM MESS WITH HER FOR? TOD'S GOT THE STUFF RIGHT HERE...
I STOOD BY WATCHING WHILE TOD AND STEVE GAVE HER THE CONCOCTION THEY HAD BREWED! I KNEW IT WOULDN'T DO THE MARE ANY GOOD-- I KNEW THAT I HAD SAVED HER! AND I STOOD BY-- FLUSHED, TRIUMPHANT, WAITING FOR THEM TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY CONTRIBUTION!
HOLD HER, NOW!
!


HERE SHE COMES!
SHE'S GETTING UP-- LOOKS A LOT BRIGHTER!
I TOLD YOU THAT STUFF WOULD KNOCK OUT THE POISON!
LUCKY WE HAD WHAT WE NEEDED FOR THAT MIX!
LUCKY YOU REMEMBERED THAT REMEDY, TOD! THAT MARE WAS A GONER!
THAT OLD BATES ON THE ROCKING-Y WAS A WHIZ WITH HORSES!
I THINK THAT SULPHUR I TOLD TOD TO ADD HELPED A LOT, TOO!
I KNEW THAT THE MEDICINE USED BY TOD HAD BEEN USELESS-- THAT THE VALUABLE HORSE HAD BEEN SAVED ONLY THROUGH MY EFFORTS! BUT I HAD BEEN GIVEN NO CREDIT-- ONCE MORE I HAD BEEN PUSHED INTO THE BACKGROUND-- AN OUTSIDER!
THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR I COULD HEAR THE VOICES OF HORSES AND CATTLE RAISED IN PAIN AS THE BRANDING WENT ON!
PAIN-- HUMILITY-- THAT'S ALL I CAN REMEMBER, FROM THE VERY BEGINNING! I HAVEN'T EVEN AN IDENTITY ANY MORE-- I'M JUST A PALE SHADOW THAT FOLLOWS THE BARKLEYS!
I MUST BREAK AWAY-- MAKE A LIFE FOR MYSELF-- BECOME A PERSON IN MY OWN RIGHT! WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT? WHAT?
THAT MEDICINE! THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TO DO FOR THE MARE! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN HEALING THE PAIN AND HURT I MYSELF HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN! THE WAY THE BARKLEYS ALWAYS RODE ROUGHSHOD OVER EVERY ONE, HURTING THEM WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING OR CARING-- THAT'S WHAT PROBABLY FIRST MADE ME INTERESTED IN HEALING!
THAT'S IT-- THE THING I'M CUT OUT FOR! HEALING! I'LL BECOME A DOCTOR! I'LL STUDY HARD AND SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, THE BREAK WILL COME THAT WILL ENABLE ME TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL!
SO A DECISION WAS MADE-- A DECISION BORN OF PAIN, AS EVERYTHING THAT I TOUCHED HAD BEEN-- A DECISION THAT WAS TO MEAN BOTH THE BEGINNING AND THE END FOR ME!

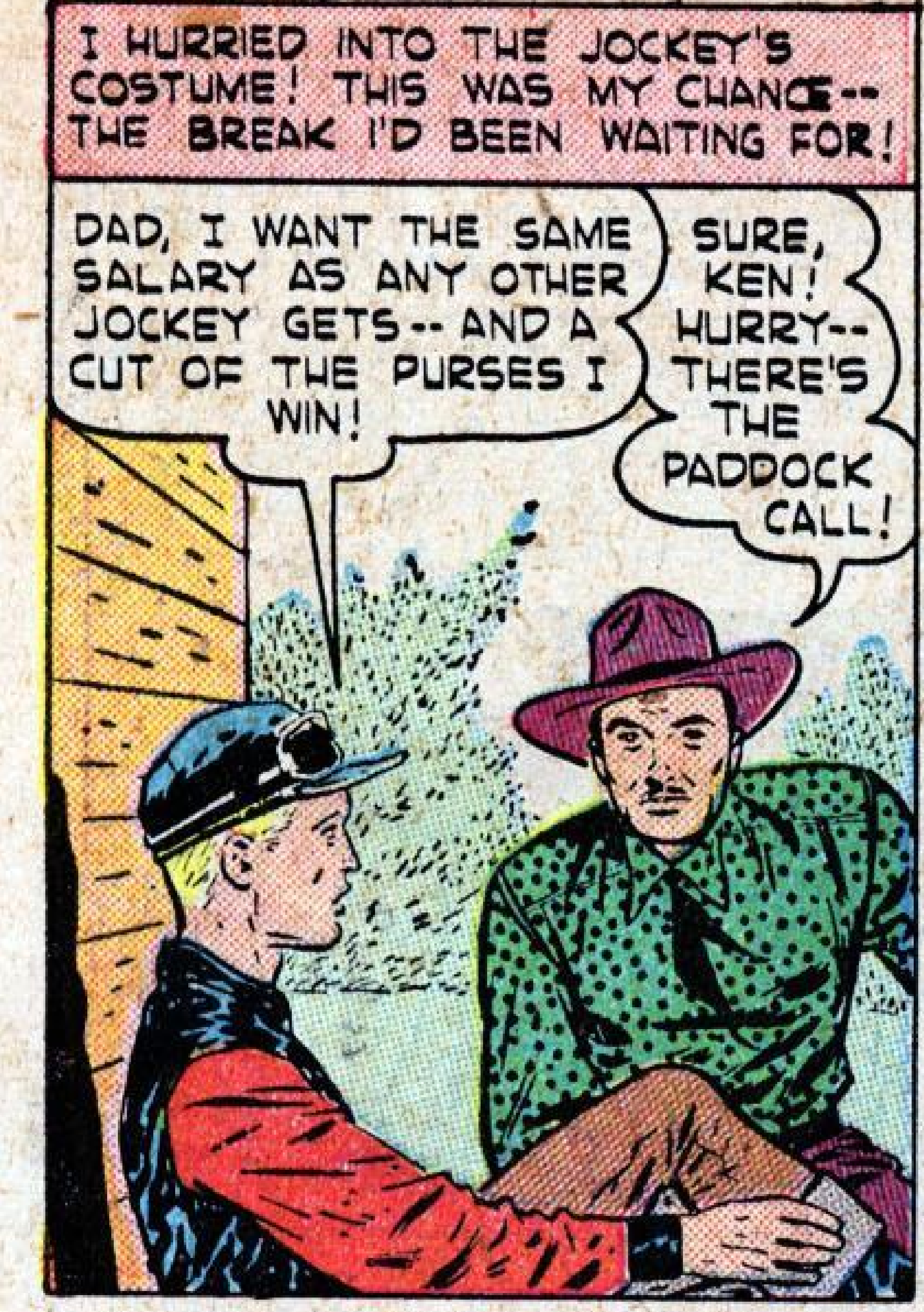

WINTER CAME ON AND I STUDIED HARD--WAITING FOR THE BREAK THAT WOULD GIVE ME MONEY ENOUGH TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL! I KNEW DAD WOULDN'T HELP--HE'D CONSIDER ANY INVESTMENT IN ME A WASTE--PARTICULARLY WHEN THE MONEY COULD BE USED FOR THE RANCH!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU READING NOW, KEN?
USUALLY THEY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME! SO I WAS FLATTERED BY THE SUDDEN ATTENTION--THROWN TO ME LIKE A BONE TO A MONGREL DOG!
IT'S A MEDICIAL HISTORY, TOD!
MAYBE IT'LL TELL YOU HOW TO PUT BONE AND MUSCLE ON SHRIMPS LIKE YOU!
MEDICINE--DOCTORS--PHOOEY! IF A MAN'S TOO WEAK AND GUTLESS TO LIVE, HE SHOULD OUGHT TO DIE!
I KNEW THAT THEY DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT--THAT IT WAS JUST THEIR WAY, BEING BROUGHT UP IN A HARD COUNTRY! BUT IT HURT NO LESS FOR THAT!
STEVE--TOD AND ME ARE GOING TO CHEYENNE TO PICK UP MORE STOCK! YOU STAY HERE AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STOCK--ESPECIALLY THAT BUCKSKIN STALLION!
SHUCKS--IF KEN WAS ONLY HALF A MAN! THEN I COULD GO WITH YOU--AND LEAVE HIM HERE!
LET STEVE GO--I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PLACE UNTIL YOU RETURN!
DON'T TALK FOOLISH, BOY--YOU STICK TO YOUR BOOKS! THAT WAY YOU'RE OUT OF THE WAY AND CAN'T DO NO HARM! WE'LL DO THE REAL WORK AROUND HERE!
DAD AND TOD LEFT EARLY THE NEXT MORNING! THE SKIES WERE GRAY, AND BLACK CLOUDS HUNG ACROSS THE LOWERING HEAVENS!
'WATCH THE STOCK, STEVE! IT'S FIXIN' TO STORM!
LEAVE IT TO ME, DAD!
THAT EVENING THE FIRST BLIZZARD STRUCK--A RAGING FURY OF NATURE!
WHAT'S THAT? IT SOUNDS LIKE IT CAME FROM THE BARN!
PERHAPS IT'S THE BUCKSKIN STALLION ACTING UP!
KEEP MY BEANS HOT--I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

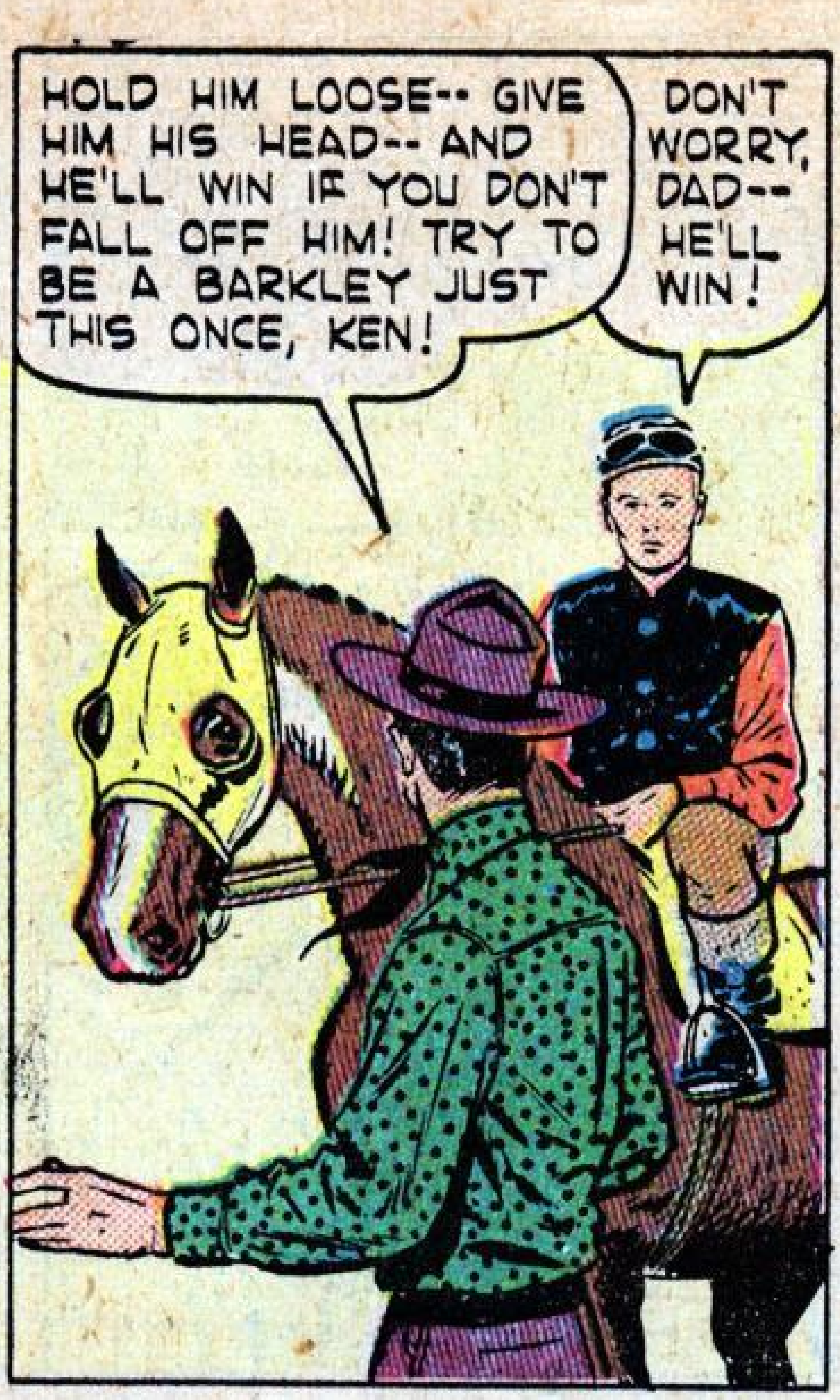

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
IT'S THE STALLION ALL RIGHT! HE BUSTED THE BARN DOOR OPEN, JUMPED THE BARS, AND HEADED FOR THE OPEN RANGE! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!
NOT IN THIS STORM, STEVE! YOU'LL BE KILLED!
AIN'T NO BLIZZARD CAN KILL A BARKLEY! 'SIDES, DAD TRUSTED ME TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS AND ESPECIALLY THAT STALLION! WE FIGURE ON RACING HIM THIS SUMMER! I'LL BE BACK LATER! HAVE SOME HOT JAVA READY-- I'LL NEED IT!
STEVE SADDLED UP AND HEADED INTO THE HOWLING STORM!
TIME DRAGGED ON AS THE STORM BEAT AT THE WINDOWS LIKE A MAD DOG!
HE SHOULD BE GETTING BACK NOW--NOTHING COULD LIVE FOR LONG IN THIS BLIZZARD!
HE'S LONG OVERDUE--SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED! I'LL WAIT ANOTHER HALF-HOUR--IF HE ISN'T BACK BY THEN, I'M GOING OUT TO LOOK FOR HIM!
THE HANDS OF THE CLOCK TURNED SLOWLY, MOCKINGLY-- EACH SECOND A CHALLENGE-- A DEADLY PROMISE!
I'M GOING AFTER HIM--TIME'S UP!
WHOA! BUENO, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DEPEND A LOT ON YOU, OL' FELLER! ALL DIRECTIONS ARE GOING TO LOOK PRETTY MUCH THE SAME IN THIS BLINDING SNOW!
I RODE IN THE DIRECTION STEVE HAD TAKEN, AND IN A MOMENT I WAS SWALLOWED UP IN A WHITE FURY-- A BITING, BUFFETING THING THAT SNATCHED THE BREATH FROM MY THROAT WITH ICY FINGERS!

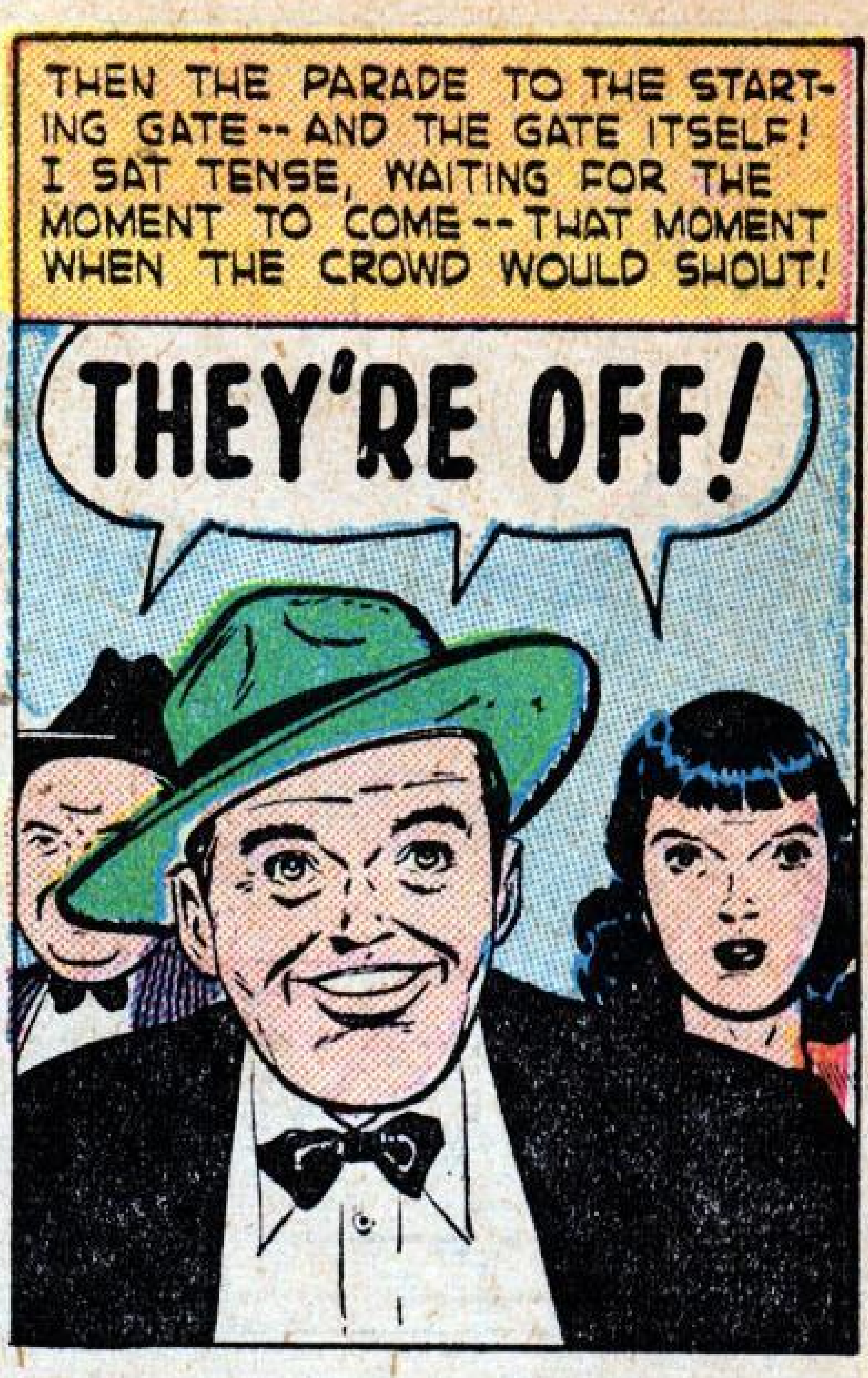

I CAN'T SEE A THING -- THE COLD'S GETTING INTO MY BONES!
HOW LONG I SEARCHED, I DO NOT KNOW! ALL I KNOW IS THAT I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! MY LEGS WERE NUMB! THE BREATH BLASTED FROM MY BODY! I COULDN'T GO ON!
I'M GOING TO TURN YOU LOOSE! IT'S UP TO YOU TO GET US BACK TO THE RANCH -- I'M COMPLETELY LOST! WHAT IS IT -- WHAT DO YOU SENSE?
I HEAR IT -- A VOICE! STEVE'S VOICE!
STEVE! I'VE FOUND YOU! I'VE FOUND YOU!
JUST IN TIME, KID! MY HORSE SLIPPED ON THE ICE, PINNING ME DOWN JUST AS I CAUGHT THE STALLION!
THE STALLION WILL FREEZE TO DEATH, TIED UP LIKE THAT! MY HANDS WENT NUMB FROM COLD AND I COULDN'T UNTIE THE ROPE!
I THINK YOUR LEG'S BROKEN, STEVE!
DESPERATELY I STRUGGLED, FINALLY MANAGING TO DRAG STEVE'S SUPINE BODY FROM BENEATH HIS MOUNT!
SEE IF MY HORSE IS ALL RIGHT!
THE HORSE WAS TOO FRIGHTENED OF THE SLIPPERY FOOTING TO ATTEMPT TO RISE, BUT WITH THE HELP OF MY ROPE I GOT HER TO HER FEET!
SHE'S ALL RIGHT, STEVE -- JUST SCARED!
BETTER HURRY, KEN! I'M -- I'M FREEZING TO DEATH!
I GOT STEVE UP ON HIS HORSE AND TIED HIM ON BEFORE HE FAINTED! THEN GIVING MY HORSE HIS HEAD, I STARTED OFF, PRAYING THAT BUENO WOULD BRING US BACK TO THE HOME RANCH BEFORE I, TOO, SUCCUMBED TO THE COLD AND FURY OF THE STORM!

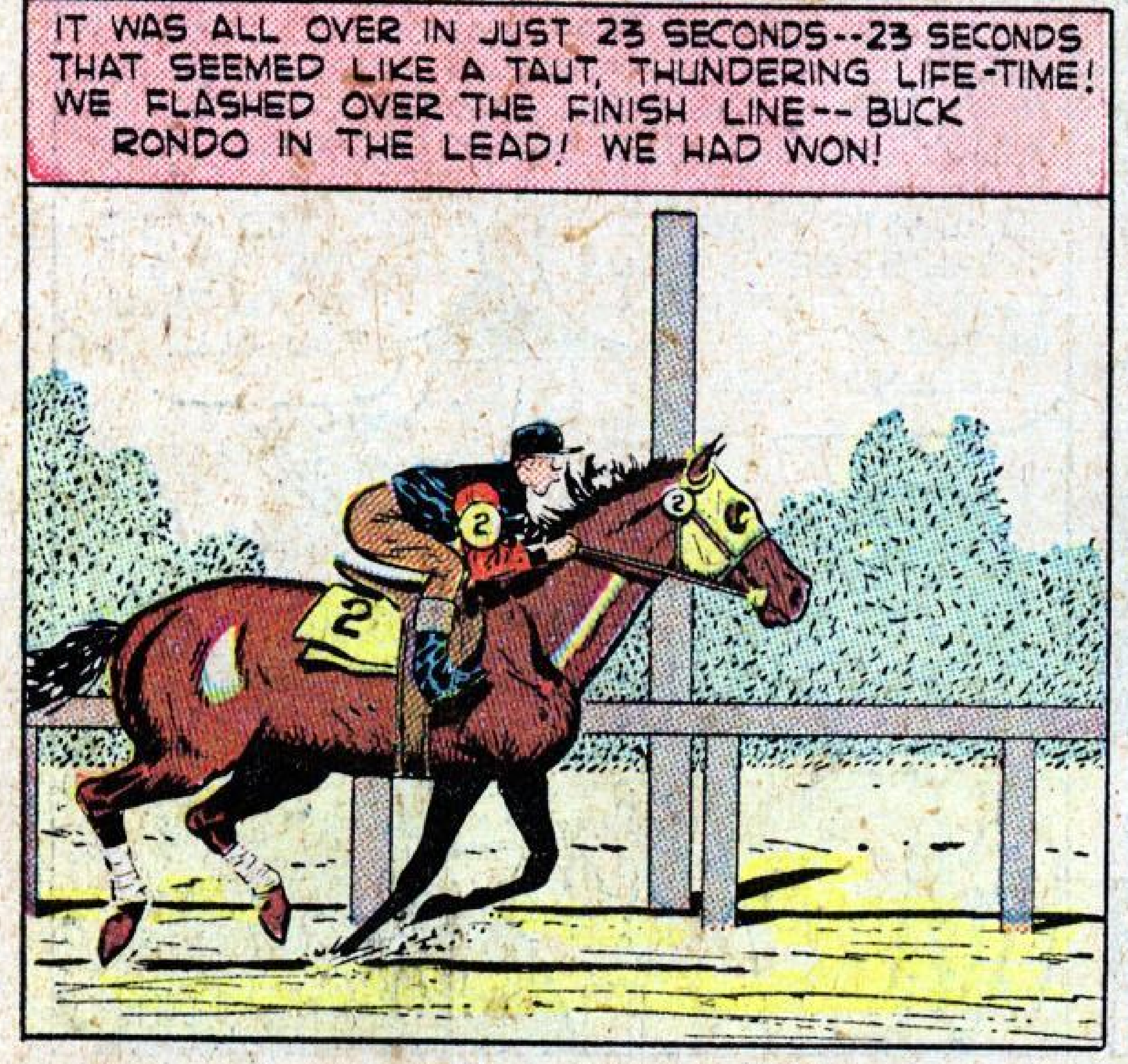

SLOWLY--STUBBORNLY--BUENO FORGED AHEAD INTO THE WHITE, SWIRLING VOID! THE DEEP DROWSINESS OF ICY ETERNAL SLEEP BEGAN TO STEAL OVER ME! IF WE DIDN'T REACH HOME WITHIN A FEW MOMENTS I KNEW THAT I WOULD FALL FROM THE SADDLE, TO DIE IN THE BITING DRIFTS!
CAN'T... CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER! GUESS... GUESS THIS IS IT!
I WANTED SO MUCH TO LIVE--TO LIVE TO PROVE MYSELF TO MY FAMILY! BUT THE WIND HOWLED AND DANCED IN FLAKY GLEE--DOING ITS BEST TO EXTINGUISH THE TINY FLAME OF LIFE THAT WAS LEFT IN ME! THEN, JUST AS ALL SEEMED LOST--I SAW LIGHT--BLESSED, LIFE-GIVING LIGHT!
LIGHT! THE HOUSE! WE MADE IT! YOU HEAR ME, STEVE? I DID IT--I SAVED US!
INTO THE BARN, BUENO--LEAD THE OTHERS--AND THANKS, OL' FELLER!
I GOT STEVE INTO THE HOUSE AND INTO BED!
IT'S BROKEN ALL RIGHT, BUT THIS SHOULD FIX IT!
BUT WE--WE GOT BACK ALL RIGHT! HOW'RE THE HORSES?
THE HORSES ARE FINE--IN THE BARN AND WARM! I'LL HAVE SOME GOOD HOT BROTH FOR YOU IN A MINUTE, STEVE!
YOU GOT US ALL BACK SAFE, KID! THE BROTH IS GOOD--HOT!
SAY... KEN...
YES, WHAT IS IT, STEVE?
LISTEN, KEN! DON'T TELL PA OR TOD--OR ANYBODY--WHAT HAPPENED, WILL YOU? LET'S KEEP IT TO OURSELVES!
I SEE! YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW THAT YOU--A ROUGH N' TOUGH BARKLEY, WERE SAVED BY ME--THE RUNT--THE NO-ACCOUNT! IS THAT IT, STEVE?
WELL, SORT OF! EVERYBODY WOULD LAUGH AT ME! WELL, SHUCKS, I WOULD'VE PROBABLY... LOOK, KEN! I...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, STEVE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO ELABORATE--I UNDERSTAND! WE'LL FORGET WHAT HAPPENED! THE STORY IS THAT YOU CAME HOME WITH A BROKEN LEG, LEADING THE STALLION! YOU WON'T HAVE TO BE SHAMED INTO SAYIN' THAT I SAVED YOU!

SWELL, KEN! NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE IT PROBABLY, ANYWAY! I GUESS, WELL, YOU HAVEN'T ANY PRIDE, LIKE THE REST OF US BARKLEYS -- HAVE YOU, KEN?
YES, I HAVE PRIDE, STEVE -- A DIFFERENT KIND OF PRIDE THAN YOU KNOW! IT'S INSIDE OF ME -- AS EVERYTHING IS! IT'S A PRIDE SO BIG THAT THIS INCIDENT MEANS NOTHING! BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'D UNDERSTAND, STEVE! LET'S JUST FORGET THE WHOLE THING!
STEVE'S RUGGED BODY QUICKLY THREW OFF THE EFFECTS OF HIS HARROWING EXPERIENCE! HIS BROKEN BONES KNIT SWIFTLY, AND BY THE TIME DAD AND TOD RETURNED HE WAS HOBBLING AROUND, ALMOST WELL!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, STEVE?
DID YOU FALL OFF YOUR HIGH-CHAIR, STEVE?
THE DUN STUD GOT LOOSE IN THE STORM, AND STEVE WENT AFTER HIM! HE BROKE HIS LEG WHEN HIS HORSE SLIPPED AND FELL ON HIM -- BUT HE CAME BACK WITH THE HORSES!
GOOD BOY, STEVE!
C'MON, LOOK AT THE NEW STOCK WE BOUGHT -- DIRT-CHEAP!
THEY TOOK THE STORY OF STEVE'S COURAGE AND RESOURCEFULNESS FOR GRANTED -- THE SORT OF THING TO EXPECT OF A BARKLEY! IF THEY'D ONLY KNOWN THE TRUTH, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN INCREDULOUS -- AS THOUGH A MIRACLE HAD BEEN PERFORMED!
HEY, THAT FILLY'S PLENTY RACY!
SUSAN'S BACK IN TOWN, AND THE TRACK'S ALMOST DONE, STEVE!
SPRING CAME, AND THE RACE TRACK WAS FINISHED!
IT LOOKS FINE, KENTON -- AND I RECKON THE BARKLEYS WILL BE READY FOR THE OPENING!
WE OPEN NEXT WEEK, BARKLEY! AND WE'VE GOTTEN SOME OF THE WEALTHIEST QUARTER HORSE MEN IN THE WEST TO PUT UP PURSES!
THEN THE RACING SEASON BEGAN, AND THE BREAK I HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR BECAME A REALITY!
WOW! "LOTTA MOTION" STUMBLED! SHE'S DOWN!
THAT'S THE JOCKEY I HIRED TO RIDE OUR "BUCK RONDO" HORSE IN THE NEXT RACE!
THEY'RE CARRYING HIM OFF! WE'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER RIDER ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE! IF ONLY TOD OR I WERE LIGHTER!
HEY! HOW ABOUT KEN? HE'S LIGHT ENOUGH!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR FOOLING -- WE'VE GOT TO WIN THE NEXT RACE!
C'MON -- GET THAT STUD OF YOURS OUT THERE FOR THE NEXT RACE, BARKLEY!
ALL RIGHT! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE OUR POST MONEY, WITHOUT EVEN RUNNING! GET INTO THE SILKS, KEN -- YOU'RE RIDING!
12


I HURRIED INTO THE JOCKEY'S COSTUME! THIS WAS MY CHANCE-- THE BREAK I'D BEEN WAITING FOR!
DAD, I WANT THE SAME SALARY AS ANY OTHER JOCKEY GETS--AND A CUT OF THE PURSES I WIN!
SURE, KEN! HURRY-- THERE'S THE PADDOCK CALL!


HOLD HIM LOOSE-- GIVE HIM HIS HEAD-- AND HE'LL WIN IF YOU DON'T FALL OFF HIM! TRY TO BE A BARKLEY JUST THIS ONCE, KEN!
DON'T WORRY, DAD-- HE'LL WIN!


THEN THE PARADE TO THE STARTING GATE--AND THE GATE ITSELF! I SAT TENSE, WAITING FOR THE MOMENT TO COME--THAT MOMENT WHEN THE CROWD WOULD SHOUT!
THEY'RE OFF!


IT WAS ALL OVER IN JUST 23 SECONDS--23 SECONDS THAT SEEMED LIKE A TAUT, THUNDERING LIFE-TIME! WE FLASHED OVER THE FINISH LINE--BUCK RONDO IN THE LEAD! WE HAD WON!
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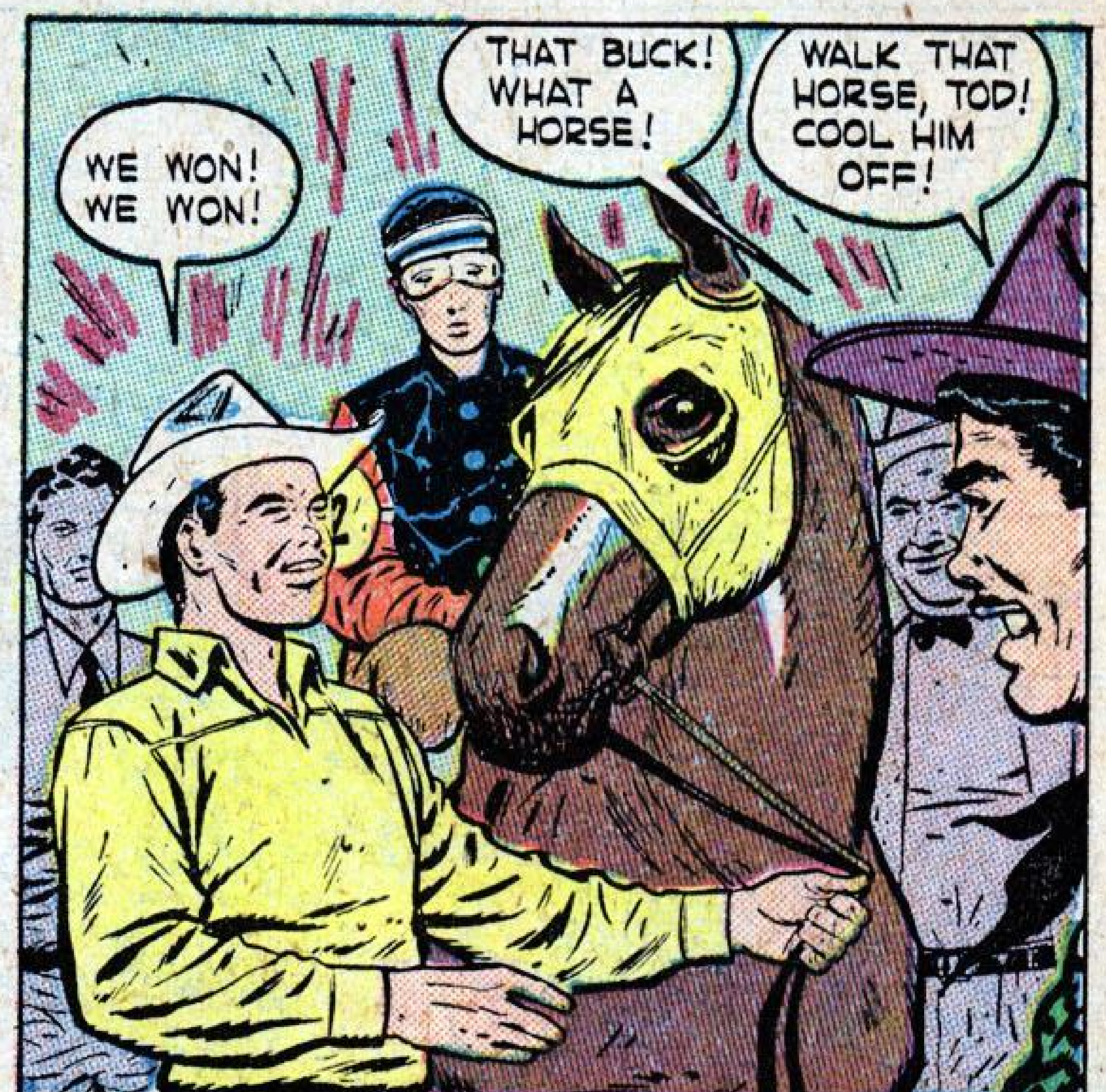
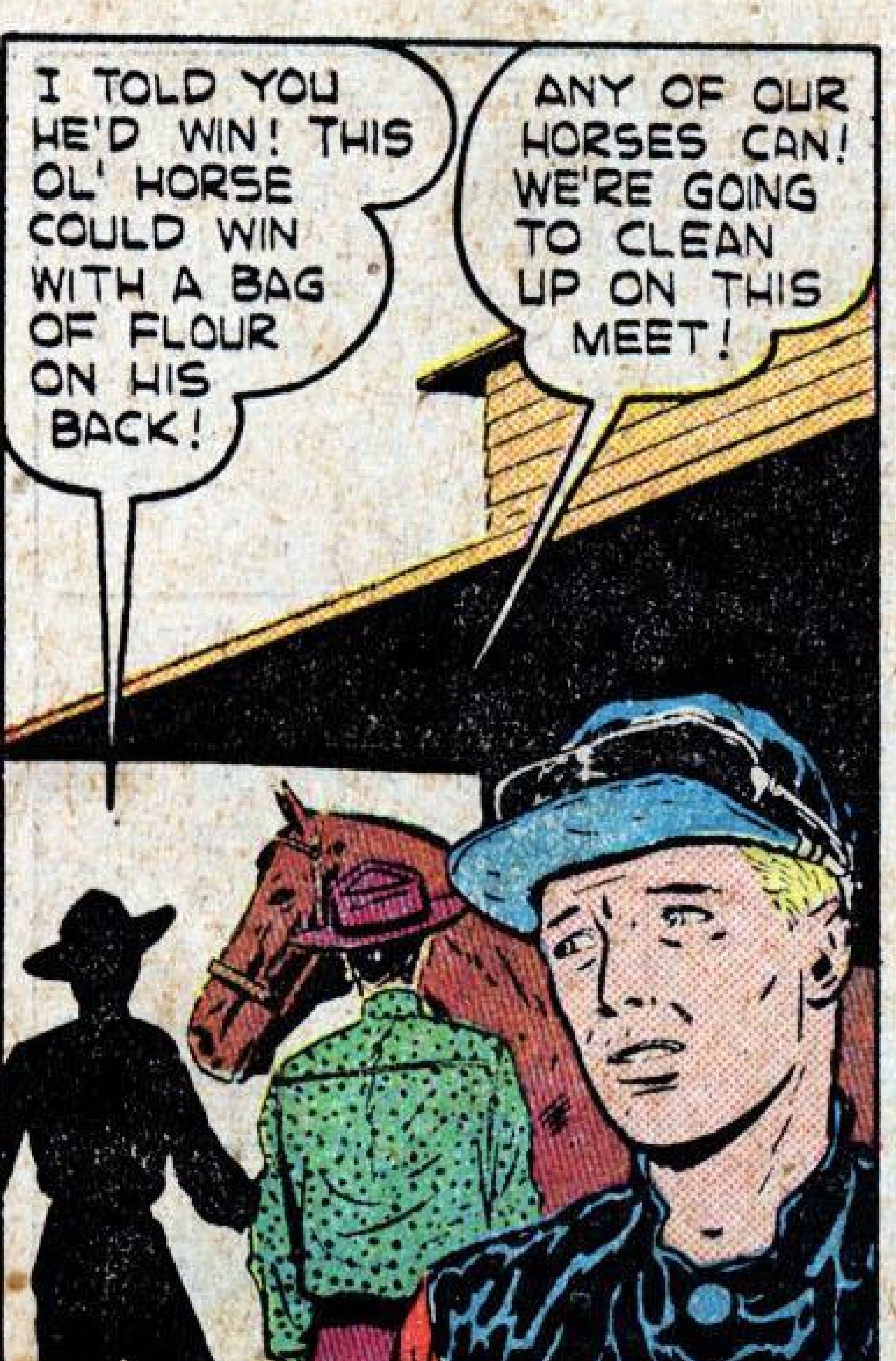
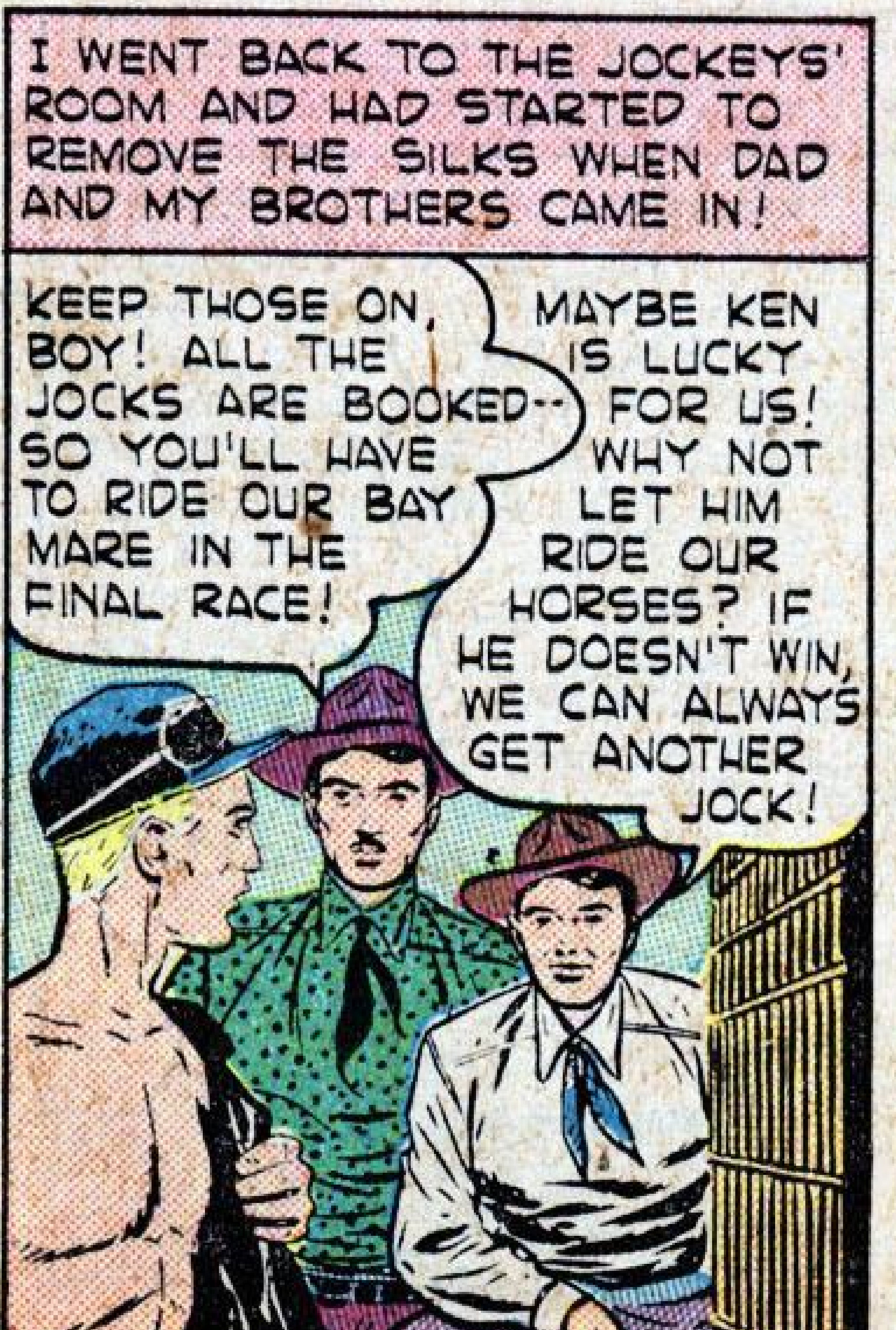
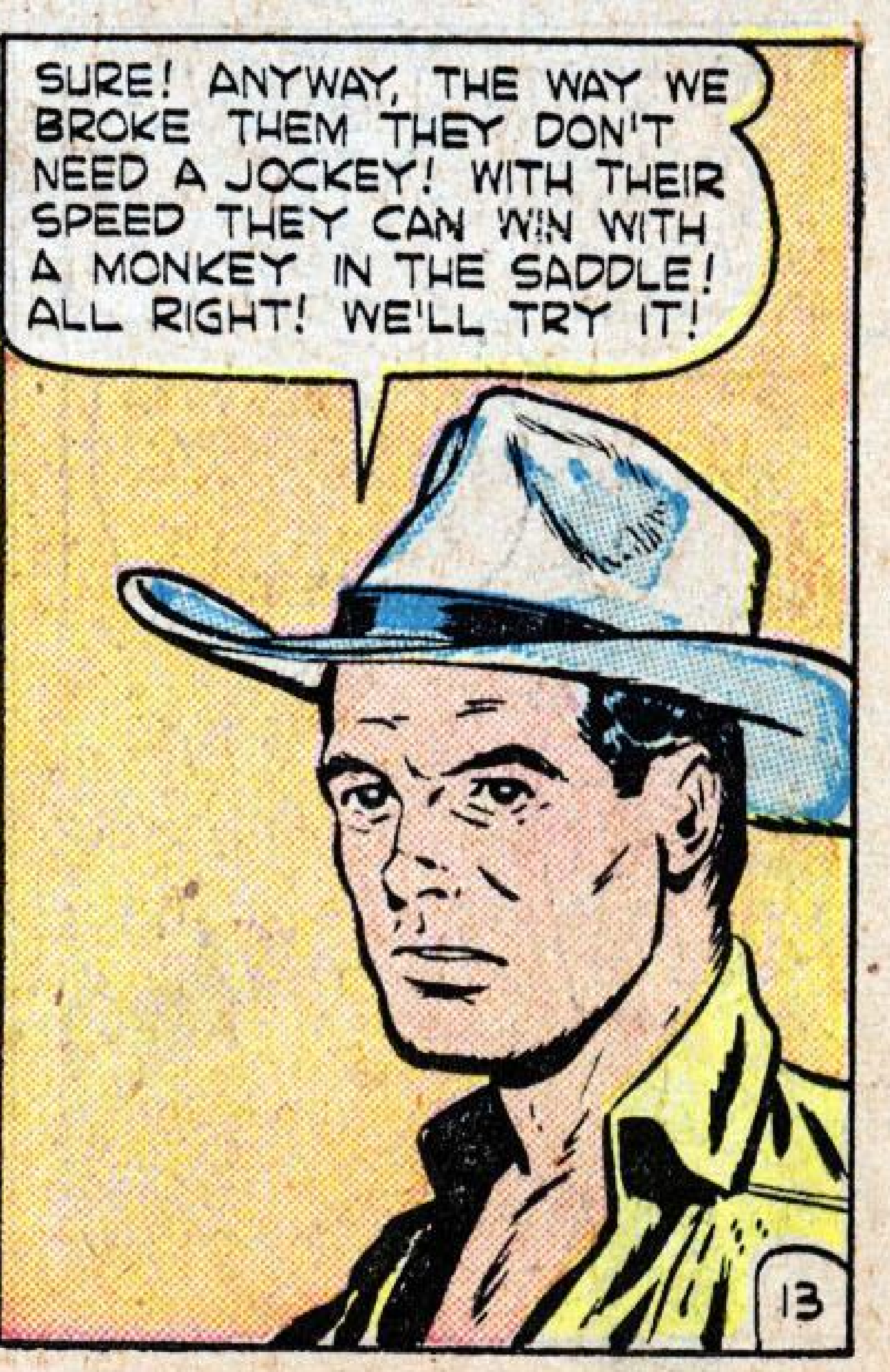
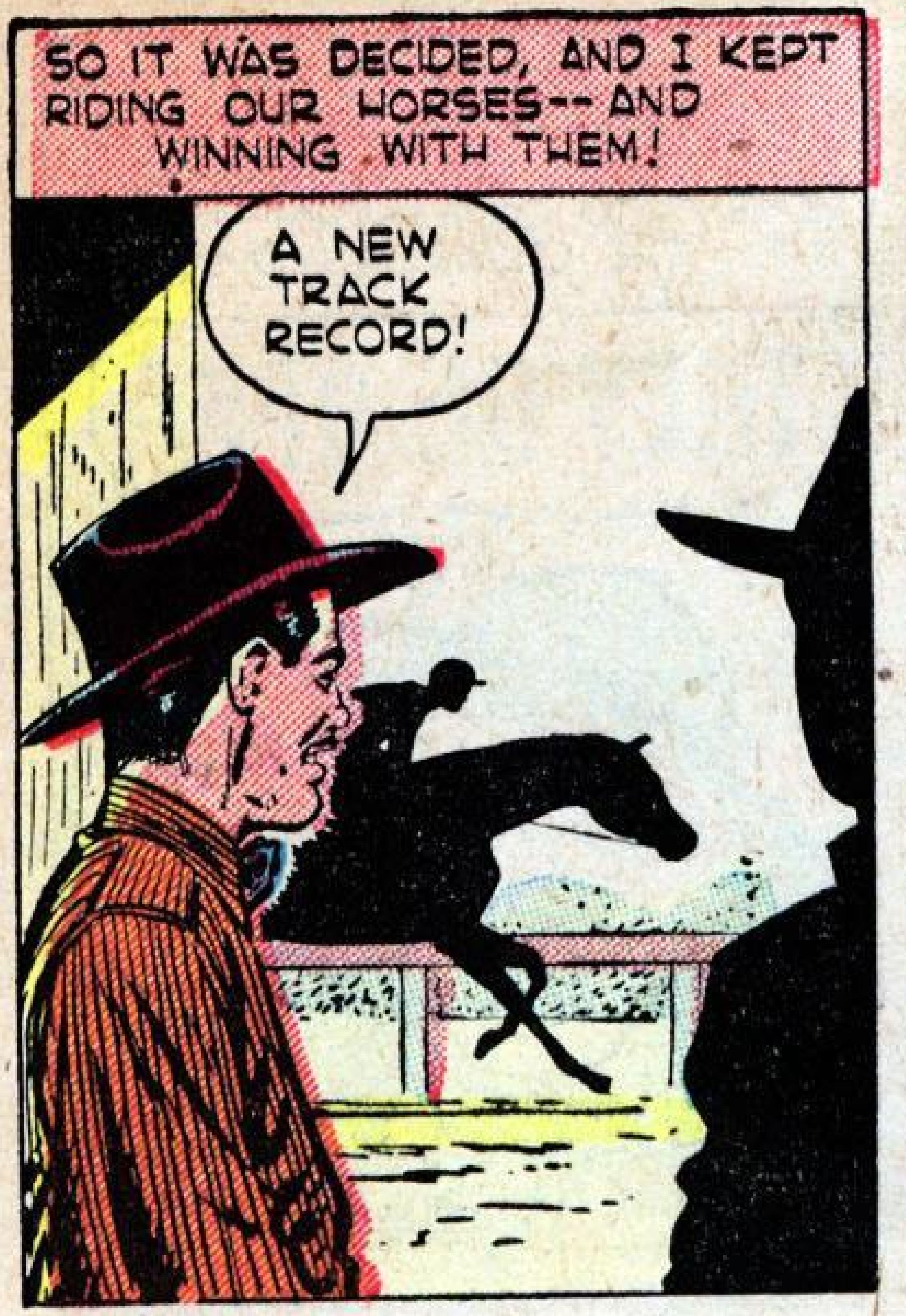
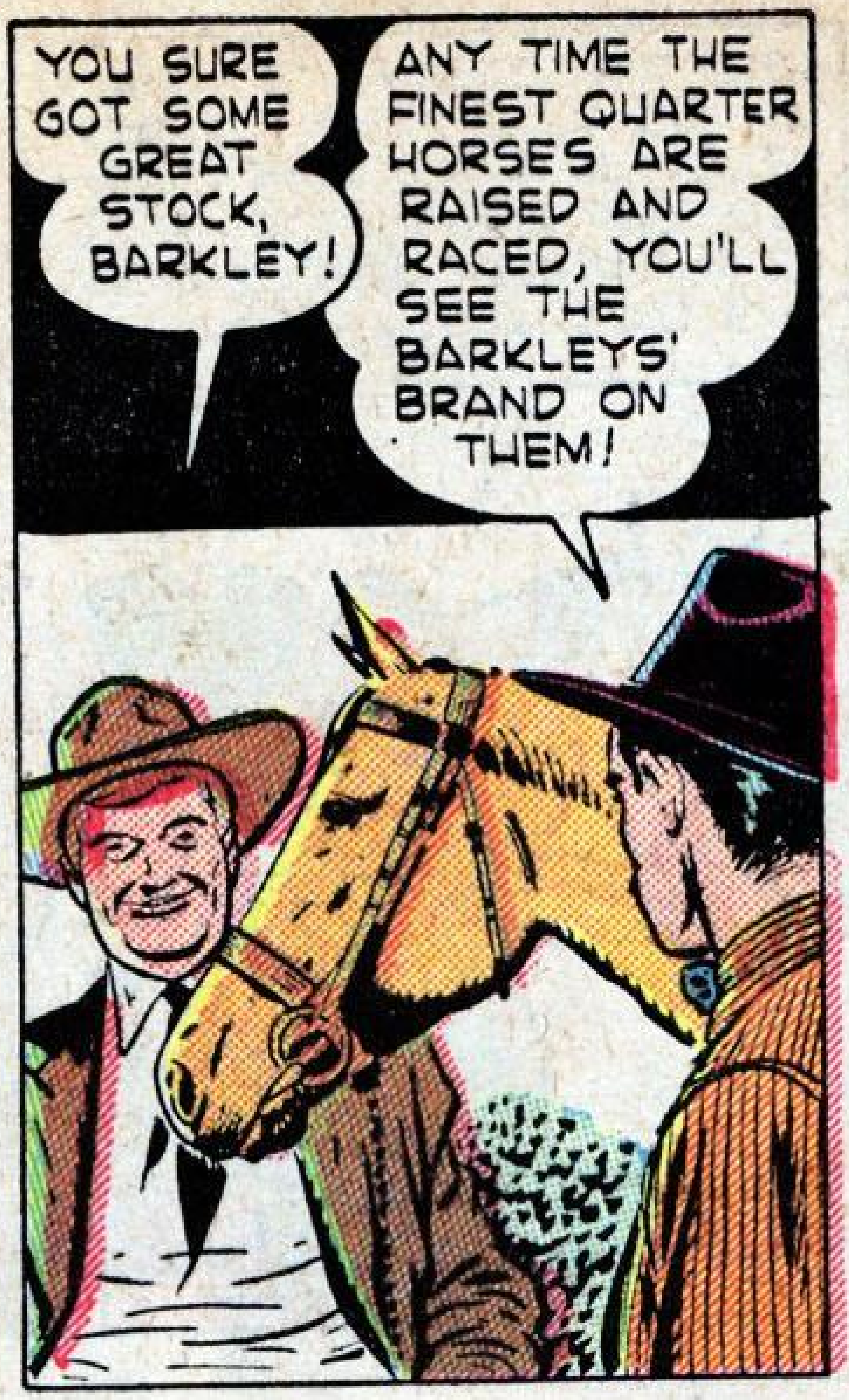

WE WON! WE WON!
THAT BUCK! WHAT A HORSE!
WALK THAT HORSE, TOD! COOL HIM OFF!

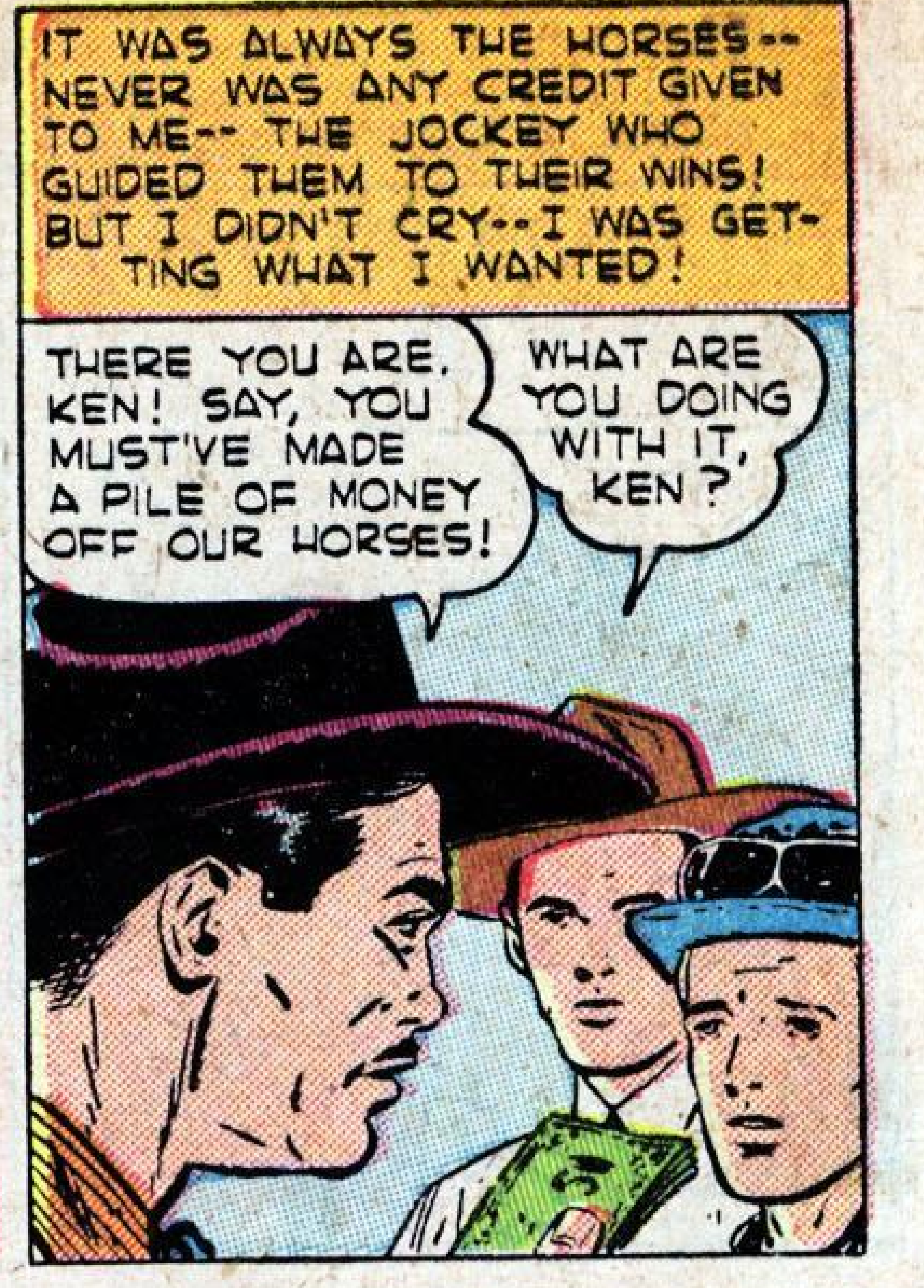

I TOLD YOU HE'D WIN! THIS OL' HORSE COULD WIN WITH A BAG OF FLOUR ON HIS BACK!
ANY OF OUR HORSES CAN! WE'RE GOING TO CLEAN UP ON THIS MEET!

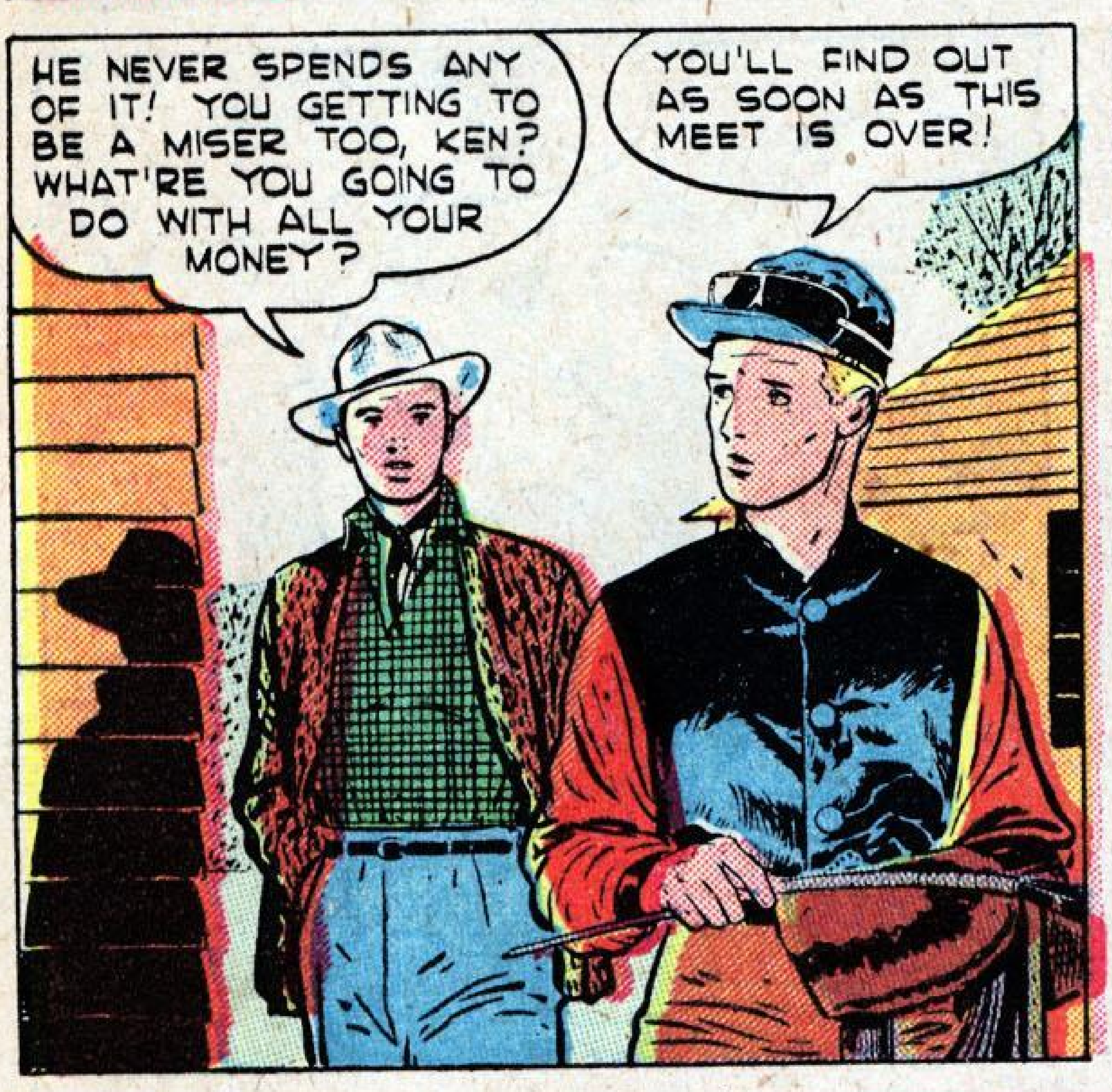

I WENT BACK TO THE JOCKEYS' ROOM AND HAD STARTED TO REMOVE THE SILKS WHEN DAD AND MY BROTHERS CAME IN!
KEEP THOSE ON, BOY! ALL THE JOCKS ARE BOOKED-- SO YOU'LL HAVE TO RIDE OUR BAY MARE IN THE FINAL RACE!
MAYBE KEN IS LUCKY FOR US! WHY NOT LET HIM RIDE OUR HORSES? IF HE DOESN'T WIN, WE CAN ALWAYS GET ANOTHER JOCK!

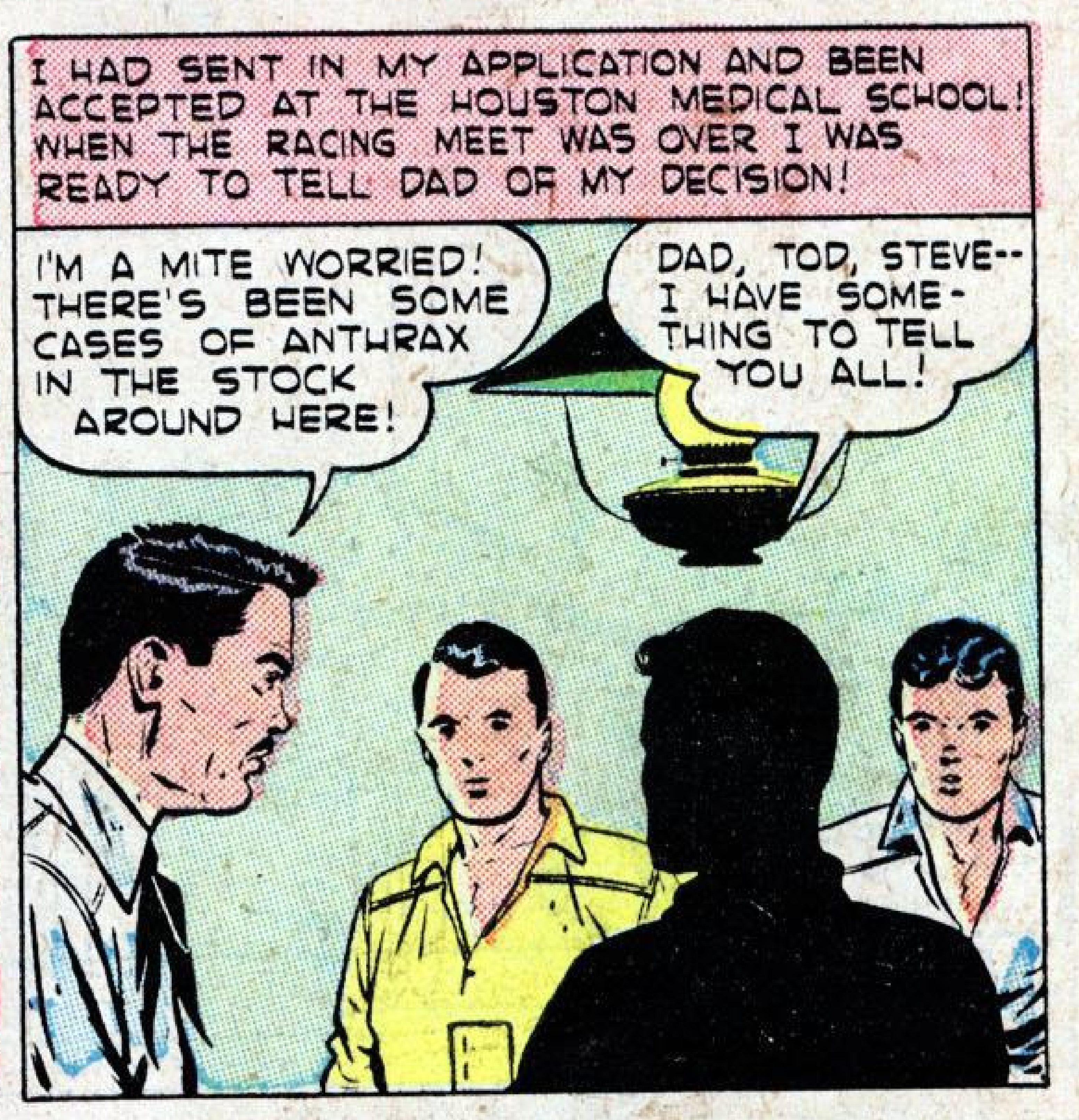

SURE! ANYWAY, THE WAY WE BROKE THEM THEY DON'T NEED A JOCKEY! WITH THEIR SPEED THEY CAN WIN WITH A MONKEY IN THE SADDLE! ALL RIGHT! WE'LL TRY IT!

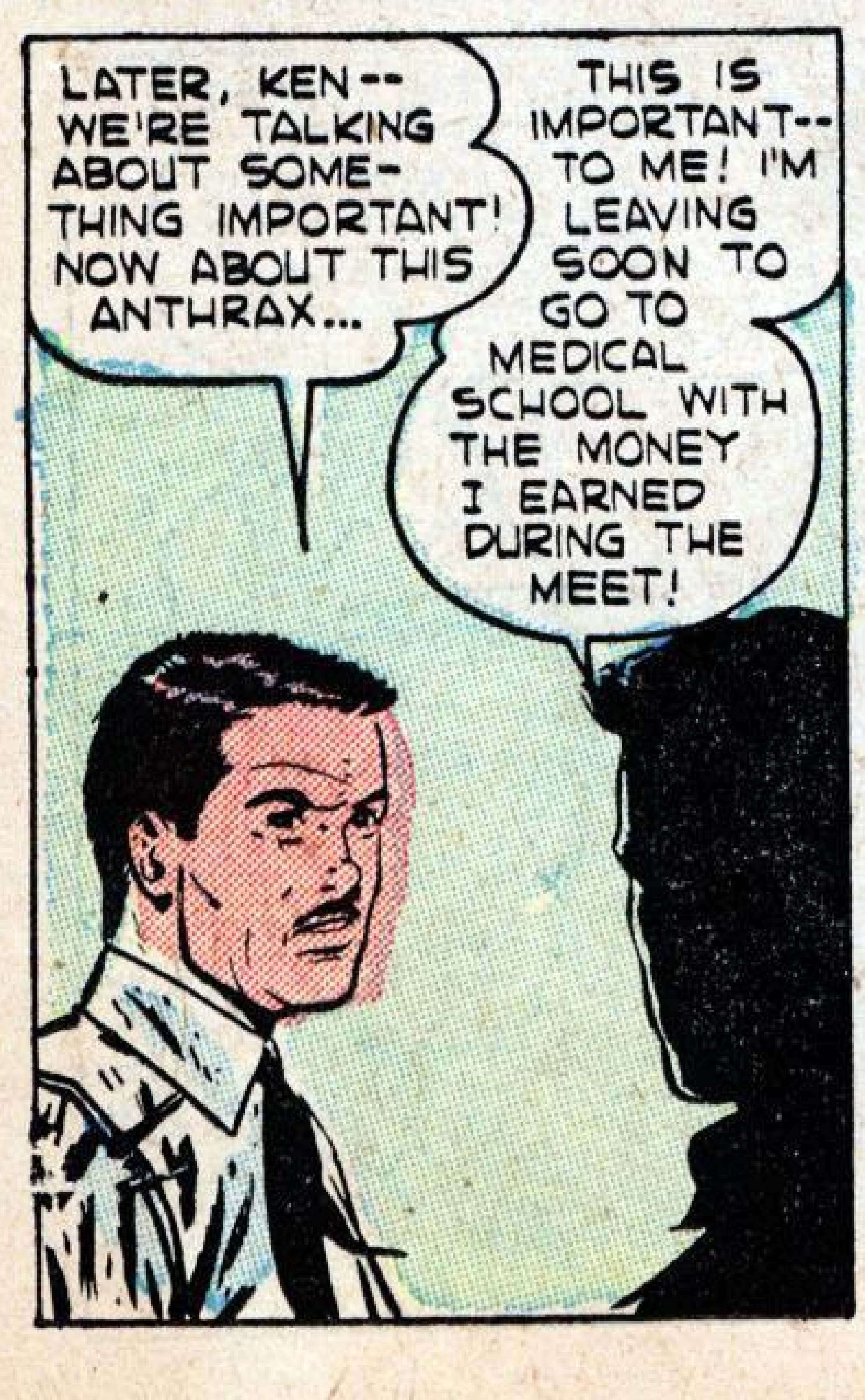

SO IT WAS DECIDED, AND I KEPT RIDING OUR HORSES--AND WINNING WITH THEM!
A NEW TRACK RECORD!

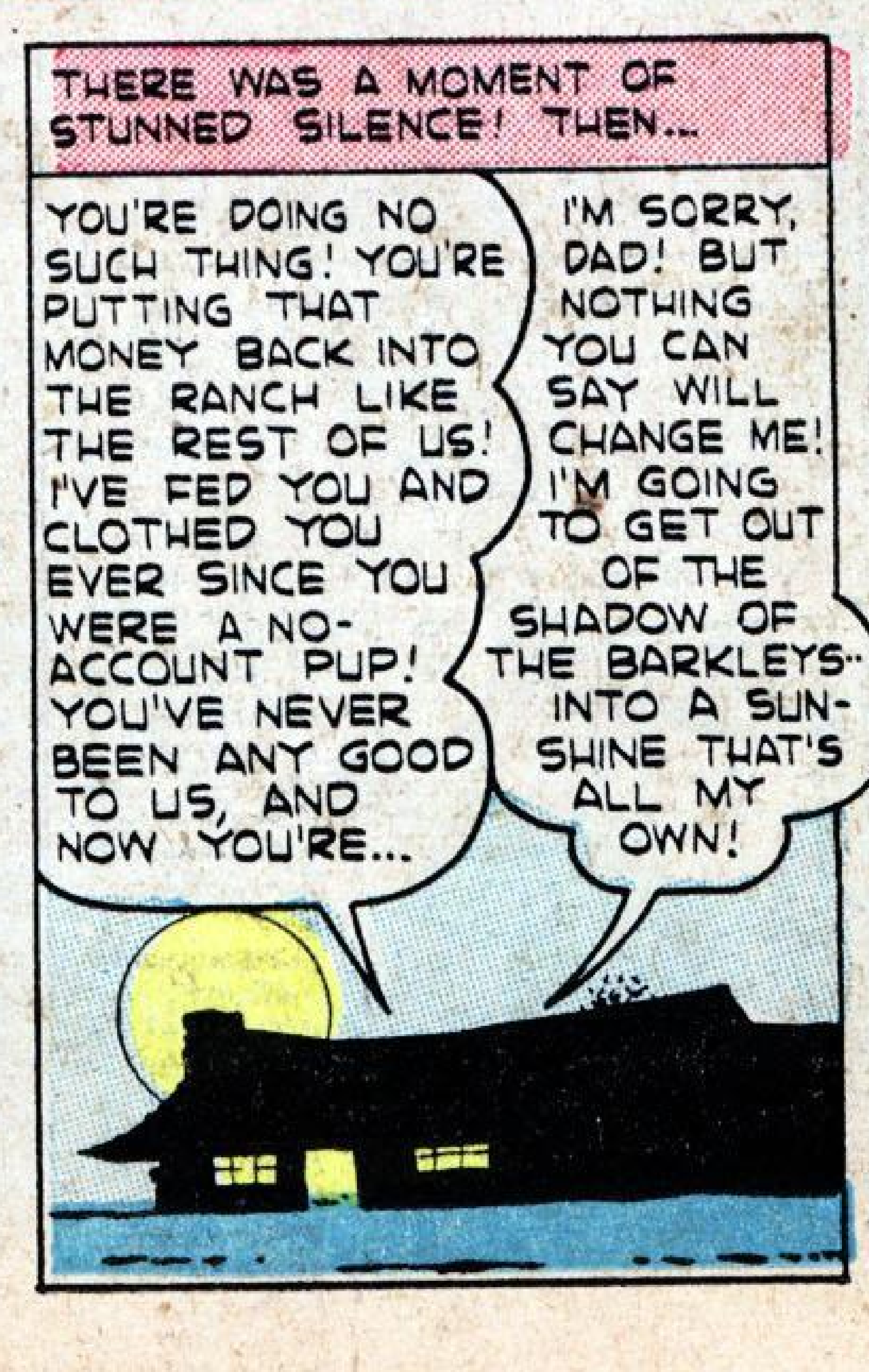

YOU SURE GOT SOME GREAT STOCK, BARKLEY!
ANY TIME THE FINEST QUARTER HORSES ARE RAISED AND RACED, YOU'LL SEE THE BARKLEYS' BRAND ON THEM!

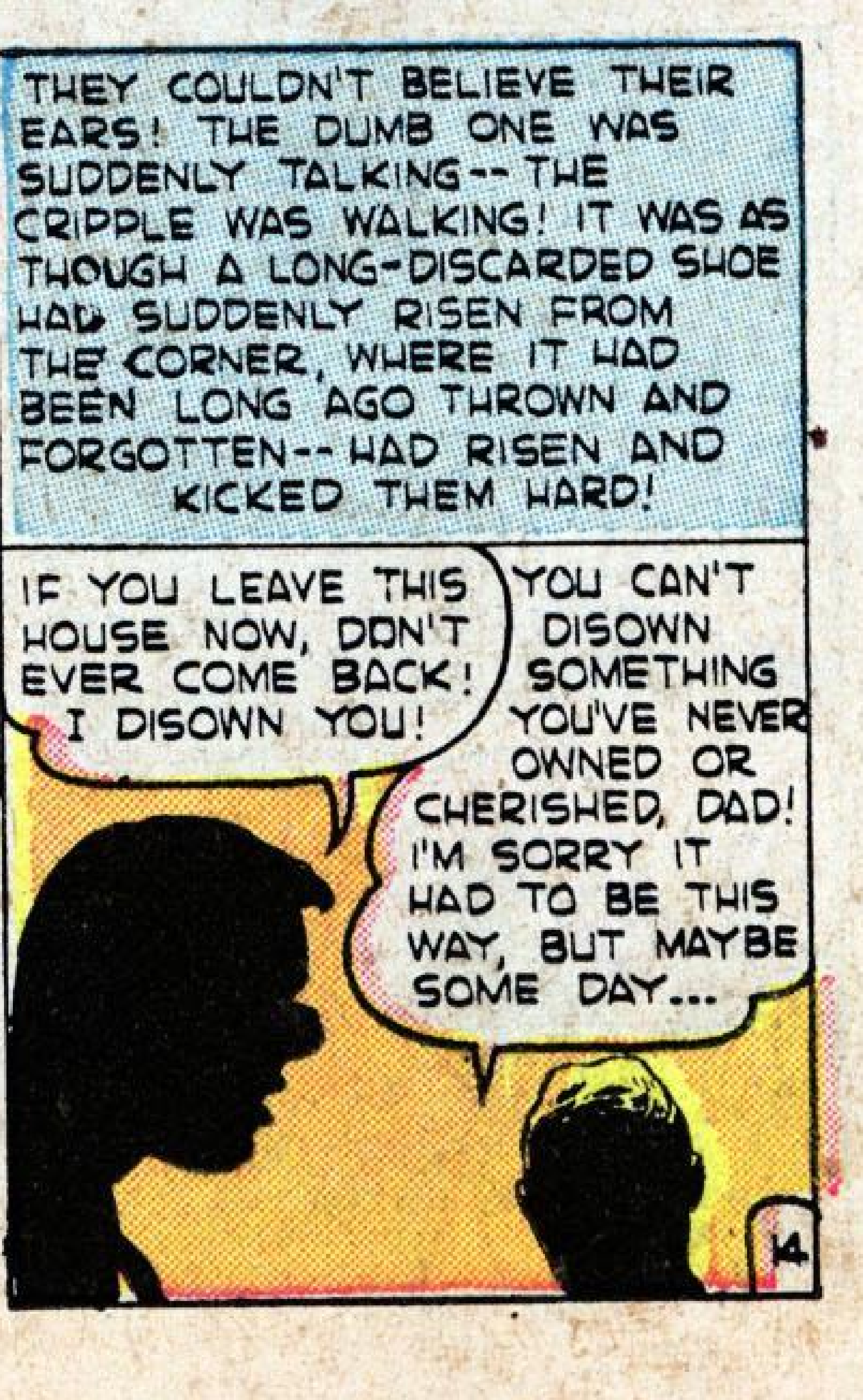

IT WAS ALWAYS THE HORSES--NEVER WAS ANY CREDIT GIVEN TO ME--THE JOCKEY WHO GUIDED THEM TO THEIR WINS! BUT I DIDN'T CRY--I WAS GETTING WHAT I WANTED!
THERE YOU ARE, KEN! SAY, YOU MUST'VE MADE A PILE OF MONEY OFF OUR HORSES!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH IT, KEN?

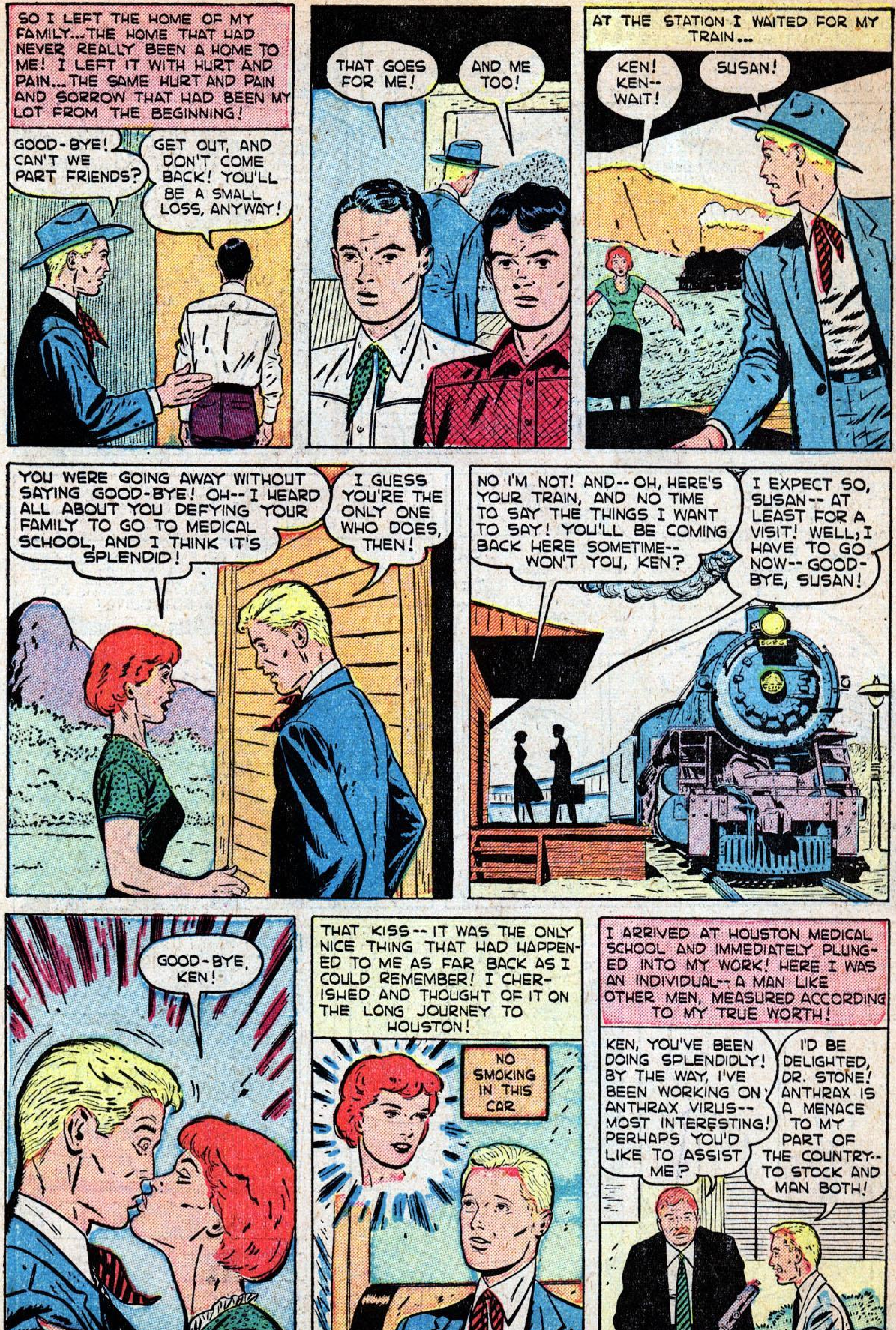

HE NEVER SPENDS ANY OF IT! YOU GETTING TO BE A MISER TOO, KEN? WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ALL YOUR MONEY?
YOU'LL FIND OUT AS SOON AS THIS MEET IS OVER!

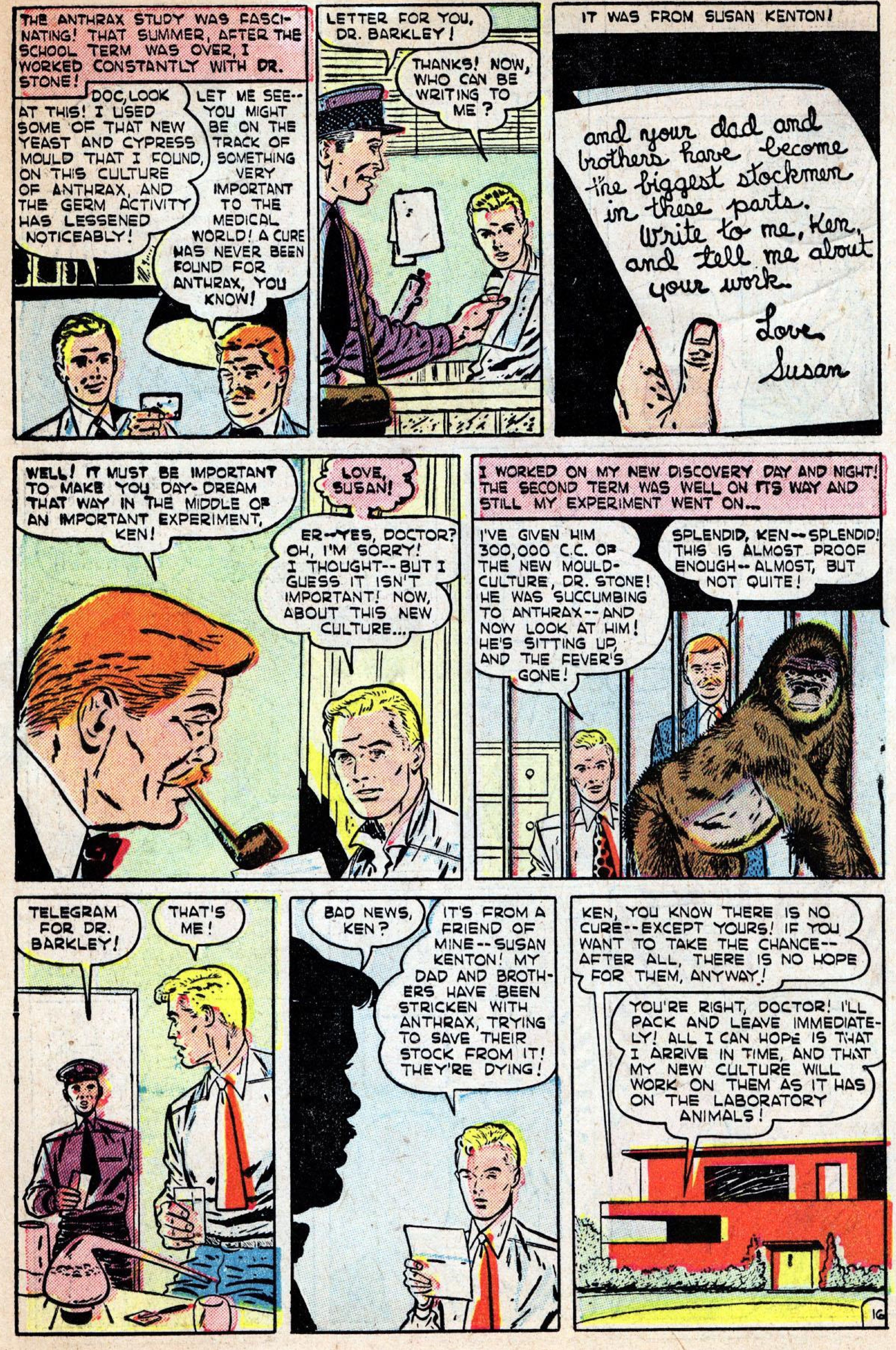

I HAD SENT IN MY APPLICATION AND BEEN ACCEPTED AT THE HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL! WHEN THE RACING MEET WAS OVER I WAS READY TO TELL DAD OF MY DECISION!
I'M A MITE WORRIED! THERE'S BEEN SOME CASES OF ANTHRAX IN THE STOCK AROUND HERE!
DAD, TOD, STEVE--I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU ALL!

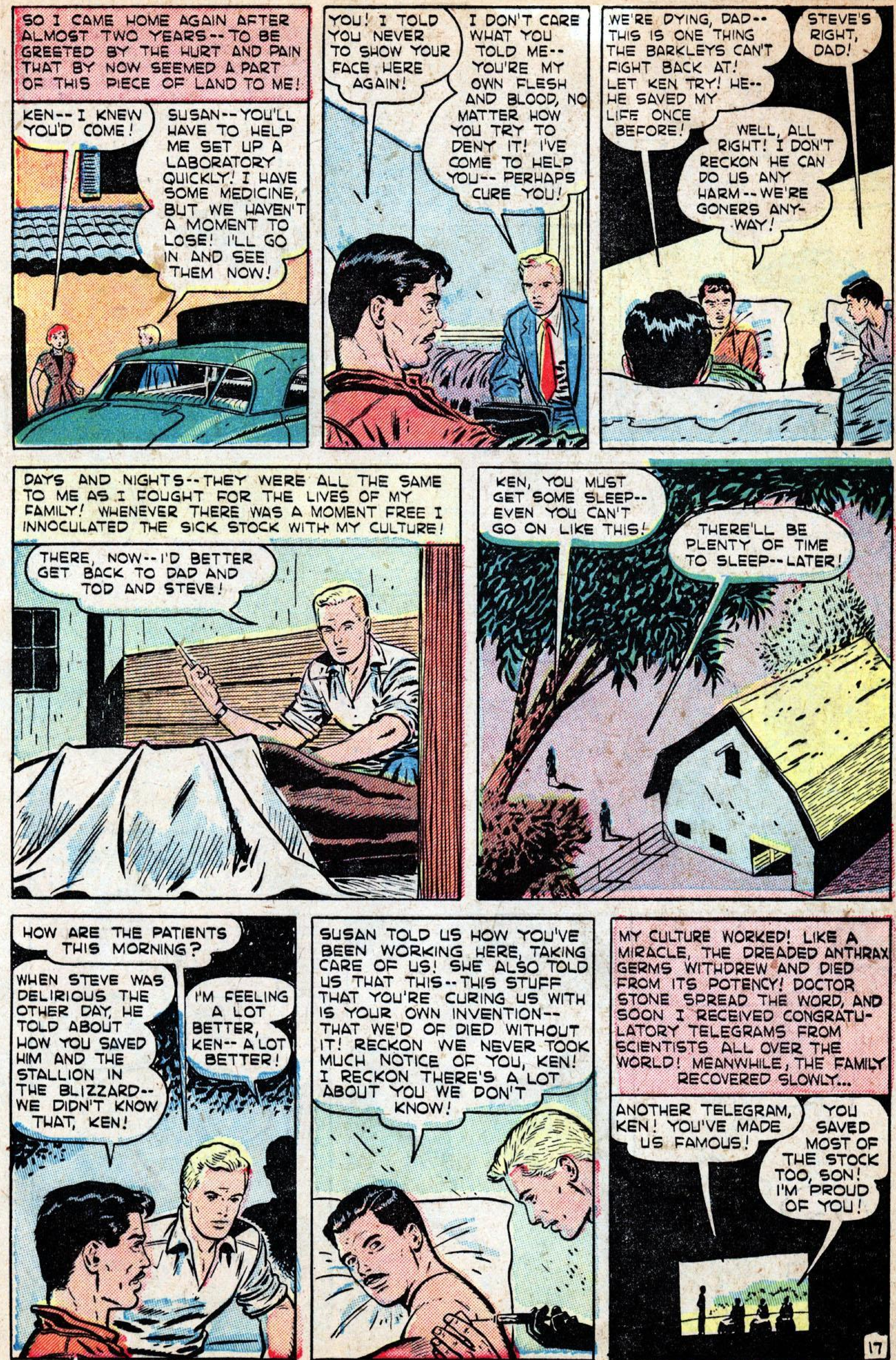

LATER, KEN--WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT! NOW ABOUT THIS ANTHRAX...
THIS IS IMPORTANT--TO ME! I'M LEAVING SOON TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL WITH THE MONEY I EARNED DURING THE MEET!

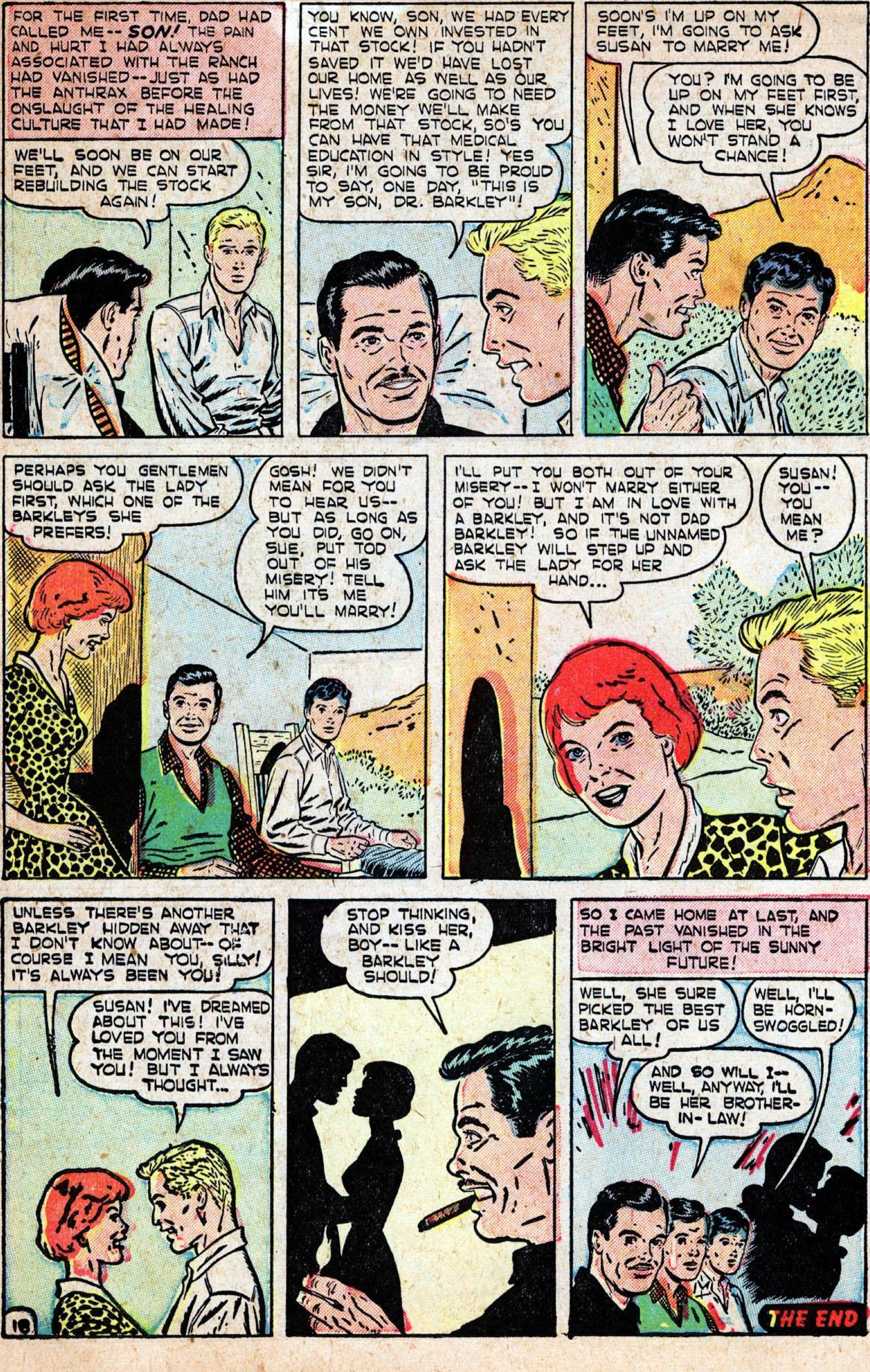

THERE WAS A MOMENT OF STUNNED SILENCE! THEN...
YOU'RE DOING NO SUCH THING! YOU'RE PUTTING THAT MONEY BACK INTO THE RANCH LIKE THE REST OF US! I'VE FED YOU AND CLOTHED YOU EVER SINCE YOU WERE A NO-ACCOUNT PUP! YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ANY GOOD TO US, AND NOW YOU'RE...
I'M SORRY, DAD! BUT NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL CHANGE ME! I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF THE SHADOW OF THE BARKLEYS.. INTO A SUNSHINE THAT'S ALL MY OWN!

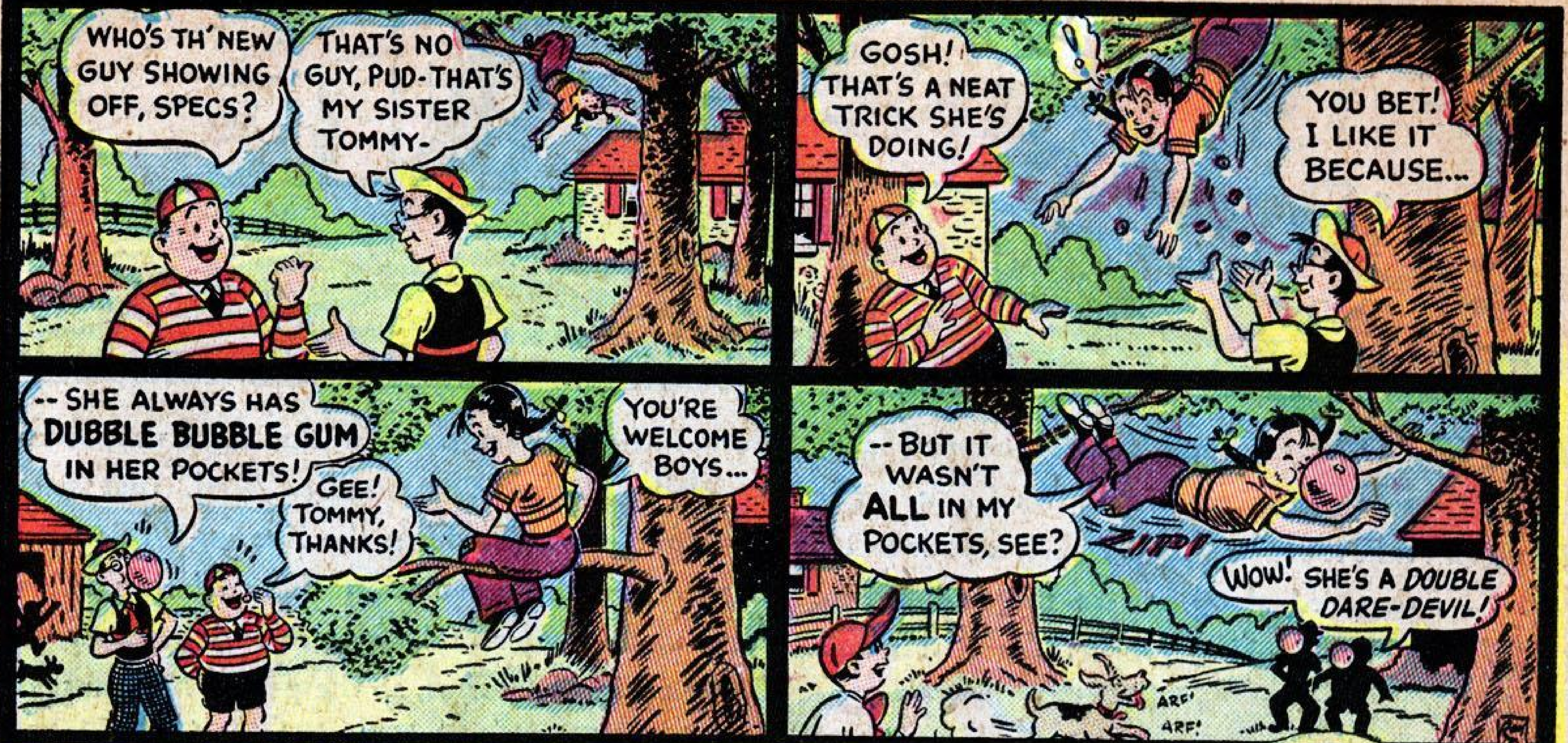

THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE THEIR EARS! THE DUMB ONE WAS SUDDENLY TALKING--THE CRIPPLE WAS WALKING! IT WAS AS THOUGH A LONG-DISCARDED SHOE HAD SUDDENLY RISEN FROM THE CORNER, WHERE IT HAD BEEN LONG AGO THROWN AND FORGOTTEN--HAD RISEN AND KICKED THEM HARD!
IF YOU LEAVE THIS HOUSE NOW, DON'T EVER COME BACK! I DISOWN YOU!
YOU CAN'T DISOWN SOMETHING YOU'VE NEVER OWNED OR CHERISHED, DAD! I'M SORRY IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY, BUT MAYBE SOME DAY...


SO I LEFT THE HOME OF MY FAMILY... THE HOME THAT HAD NEVER REALLY BEEN A HOME TO ME! I LEFT IT WITH HURT AND PAIN... THE SAME HURT AND PAIN AND SORROW THAT HAD BEEN MY LOT FROM THE BEGINNING!
GOOD-BYE! CAN'T WE PART FRIENDS?
GET OUT, AND DON'T COME BACK! YOU'LL BE A SMALL LOSS, ANYWAY!
THAT GOES FOR ME!
AND ME TOO!
AT THE STATION I WAITED FOR MY TRAIN...
KEN! KEN-- WAIT!
SUSAN!
YOU WERE GOING AWAY WITHOUT SAYING GOOD-BYE! OH-- I HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU DEFYING YOUR FAMILY TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND I THINK IT'S SPLENDID!
I GUESS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO DOES, THEN!
NO I'M NOT! AND-- OH, HERE'S YOUR TRAIN, AND NO TIME TO SAY THE THINGS I WANT TO SAY! YOU'LL BE COMING BACK HERE SOMETIME-- WON'T YOU, KEN?
I EXPECT SO, SUSAN-- AT LEAST FOR A VISIT! WELL, I HAVE TO GO NOW-- GOOD-BYE, SUSAN!
GOOD-BYE, KEN!
THAT KISS-- IT WAS THE ONLY NICE THING THAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME AS FAR BACK AS I COULD REMEMBER! I CHERISHED AND THOUGHT OF IT ON THE LONG JOURNEY TO HOUSTON!
NO SMOKING IN THIS CAR
I ARRIVED AT HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL AND IMMEDIATELY PLUNGED INTO MY WORK! HERE I WAS AN INDIVIDUAL-- A MAN LIKE OTHER MEN, MEASURED ACCORDING TO MY TRUE WORTH!
KEN, YOU'VE BEEN DOING SPLENDIDLY! BY THE WAY, I'VE BEEN WORKING ON ANTHRAX VIRUS-- MOST INTERESTING! PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO ASSIST ME?
I'D BE DELIGHTED, DR. STONE! ANTHRAX IS A MENACE TO MY PART OF THE COUNTRY-- TO STOCK AND MAN BOTH!


THE ANTHRAX STUDY WAS FASCINATING! THAT SUMMER, AFTER THE SCHOOL TERM WAS OVER, I WORKED CONSTANTLY WITH DR. STONE!
DOC, LOOK AT THIS! I USED SOME OF THAT NEW YEAST AND CYPRESS MOULD THAT I FOUND, ON THIS CULTURE OF ANTHRAX, AND THE GERM ACTIVITY HAS LESSENED NOTICEABLY!
LET ME SEE-- YOU MIGHT BE ON THE TRACK OF SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO THE MEDICAL WORLD! A CURE HAS NEVER BEEN FOUND FOR ANTHRAX, YOU KNOW!
LETTER FOR YOU, DR. BARKLEY!
THANKS! NOW, WHO CAN BE WRITING TO ME?
IT WAS FROM SUSAN KENTON!
and your dad and brothers have become the biggest stockmen in these parts. Write to me, Ken, and tell me about your work.
Love Susan
WELL! IT MUST BE IMPORTANT TO MAKE YOU DAY-DREAM THAT WAY IN THE MIDDLE OF AN IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT, KEN!
LOVE, SUSAN!
ER--YES, DOCTOR? OH, I'M SORRY! I THOUGHT--BUT I GUESS IT ISN'T IMPORTANT! NOW, ABOUT THIS NEW CULTURE...
I WORKED ON MY NEW DISCOVERY DAY AND NIGHT! THE SECOND TERM WAS WELL ON ITS WAY AND STILL MY EXPERIMENT WENT ON...
I'VE GIVEN HIM 300,000 C.C. OF THE NEW MOULD-CULTURE, DR. STONE! HE WAS SUCCUMBING TO ANTHRAX--AND NOW LOOK AT HIM! HE'S SITTING UP, AND THE FEVER'S GONE!
SPLENDID, KEN--SPLENDID! THIS IS ALMOST PROOF ENOUGH--ALMOST, BUT NOT QUITE!
TELEGRAM FOR DR. BARKLEY!
THAT'S ME!
BAD NEWS, KEN?
IT'S FROM A FRIEND OF MINE--SUSAN KENTON! MY DAD AND BROTHERS HAVE BEEN STRICKEN WITH ANTHRAX, TRYING TO SAVE THEIR STOCK FROM IT! THEY'RE DYING!
KEN, YOU KNOW THERE IS NO CURE--EXCEPT YOURS! IF YOU WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE--AFTER ALL, THERE IS NO HOPE FOR THEM, ANYWAY!
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOCTOR! I'LL PACK AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! ALL I CAN HOPE IS THAT I ARRIVE IN TIME, AND THAT MY NEW CULTURE WILL WORK ON THEM AS IT HAS ON THE LABORATORY ANIMALS!


SO I CAME HOME AGAIN AFTER ALMOST TWO YEARS--TO BE GREETED BY THE HURT AND PAIN THAT BY NOW SEEMED A PART OF THIS PIECE OF LAND TO ME!
KEN-- I KNEW YOU'D COME!
SUSAN--YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP ME SET UP A LABORATORY QUICKLY! I HAVE SOME MEDICINE, BUT WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE! I'LL GO IN AND SEE THEM NOW!
YOU! I TOLD YOU NEVER TO SHOW YOUR FACE HERE AGAIN!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU TOLD ME--YOU'RE MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD, NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO DENY IT! I'VE COME TO HELP YOU--PERHAPS CURE YOU!
WE'RE DYING, DAD--THIS IS ONE THING THE BARKLEYS CAN'T FIGHT BACK AT! LET KEN TRY! HE--HE SAVED MY LIFE ONCE BEFORE!
STEVE'S RIGHT, DAD!
WELL, ALL RIGHT! I DON'T RECKON HE CAN DO US ANY HARM--WE'RE GONERS ANYWAY!
DAYS AND NIGHTS--THEY WERE ALL THE SAME TO ME AS I FOUGHT FOR THE LIVES OF MY FAMILY! WHENEVER THERE WAS A MOMENT FREE I INNOCULATED THE SICK STOCK WITH MY CULTURE!
THERE, NOW--I'D BETTER GET BACK TO DAD AND TOD AND STEVE!
KEN, YOU MUST GET SOME SLEEP--EVEN YOU CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO SLEEP--LATER!
HOW ARE THE PATIENTS THIS MORNING?
WHEN STEVE WAS DELIRIOUS THE OTHER DAY, HE TOLD ABOUT HOW YOU SAVED HIM AND THE STALLION IN THE BLIZZARD--WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT, KEN!
I'M FEELING A LOT BETTER, KEN--A LOT BETTER!
SUSAN TOLD US HOW YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HERE, TAKING CARE OF US! SHE ALSO TOLD US THAT THIS--THIS STUFF THAT YOU'RE CURING US WITH IS YOUR OWN INVENTION--THAT WE'D OF DIED WITHOUT IT! RECKON WE NEVER TOOK MUCH NOTICE OF YOU, KEN! I RECKON THERE'S A LOT ABOUT YOU WE DON'T KNOW!
MY CULTURE WORKED! LIKE A MIRACLE, THE DREADED ANTHRAX GERMS WITHDREW AND DIED FROM ITS POTENCY! DOCTOR STONE SPREAD THE WORD, AND SOON I RECEIVED CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS FROM SCIENTISTS ALL OVER THE WORLD! MEANWHILE, THE FAMILY RECOVERED SLOWLY...
ANOTHER TELEGRAM, KEN! YOU'VE MADE US FAMOUS!
YOU SAVED MOST OF THE STOCK TOO, SON! I'M PROUD OF YOU!


FOR THE FIRST TIME, DAD HAD CALLED ME-- **SON!** THE PAIN AND HURT I HAD ALWAYS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RANCH HAD VANISHED-- JUST AS HAD THE ANTHRAX BEFORE THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE HEALING CULTURE THAT I HAD MADE!
WE'LL SOON BE ON OUR FEET, AND WE CAN START REBUILDING THE STOCK AGAIN!
YOU KNOW, SON, WE HAD EVERY CENT WE OWN INVESTED IN THAT STOCK! IF YOU HADN'T SAVED IT WE'D HAVE LOST OUR HOME AS WELL AS OUR LIVES! WE'RE GOING TO NEED THE MONEY WE'LL MAKE FROM THAT STOCK, SO'S YOU CAN HAVE THAT MEDICAL EDUCATION IN STYLE! YES SIR, I'M GOING TO BE PROUD TO SAY, ONE DAY, "THIS IS MY SON, DR. BARKLEY"!
SOON'S I'M UP ON MY FEET, I'M GOING TO ASK SUSAN TO MARRY ME!
YOU? I'M GOING TO BE UP ON MY FEET FIRST, AND WHEN SHE KNOWS I LOVE HER, YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE!
PERHAPS YOU GENTLEMEN SHOULD ASK THE LADY FIRST, WHICH ONE OF THE BARKLEYS SHE PREFERS!
GOSH! WE DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO HEAR US-- BUT AS LONG AS YOU DID, GO ON, SUE, PUT TOD OUT OF HIS MISERY! TELL HIM IT'S ME YOU'LL MARRY!
I'LL PUT YOU BOTH OUT OF YOUR MISERY-- I WON'T MARRY EITHER OF YOU! BUT I AM IN LOVE WITH A BARKLEY, AND IT'S NOT DAD BARKLEY! SO IF THE UNNAMED BARKLEY WILL STEP UP AND ASK THE LADY FOR HER HAND...
SUSAN! YOU-- YOU MEAN ME?
UNLESS THERE'S ANOTHER BARKLEY HIDDEN AWAY THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT-- OF COURSE I MEAN YOU, SILLY! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN YOU!
SUSAN! I'VE DREAMED ABOUT THIS! I'VE LOVED YOU FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU! BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT...
STOP THINKING, AND KISS HER, BOY-- LIKE A BARKLEY SHOULD!
SO I CAME HOME AT LAST, AND THE PAST VANISHED IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF THE SUNNY FUTURE!
WELL, SHE SURE PICKED THE BEST BARKLEY OF US ALL!
WELL, I'LL BE HORN-SWOGGLED!
AND SO WILL I-- WELL, ANYWAY, I'LL BE HER BROTHER-IN-LAW!
THE END


WHO'S TH' NEW GUY SHOWING OFF, SPECS?
THAT'S NO GUY, PUD- THAT'S MY SISTER TOMMY-
GOSH! THAT'S A NEAT TRICK SHE'S DOING!
YOU BET! I LIKE IT BECAUSE...
-- SHE ALWAYS HAS DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM IN HER POCKETS!
GEE! TOMMY, THANKS!
YOU'RE WELCOME BOYS...
-- BUT IT WASN'T ALL IN MY POCKETS, SEE?
ZIP!
WOW! SHE'S A DOUBLE DARE-DEVIL!
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the sign of a good comic

THE SUBMARINE

"HELLO there, son. You're the new club member, aren't you? Well, sit right down and take it easy a while. Which is your boat? Oh . . . that red sloop out at the end of the dock, eh? Nice looking job . . . a real man's boat.

"Yep, sure is nice to see nothing but real men around the Yacht Club now. For a while there this here club was going straight to pieces, but I guess you heard about that blow-up, didn't you?

"What's that? Nobody ever told you! Well then, son, it's about time you got brought up to date on the history of our organization. We're a proud old bunch in these parts and I guess you'll feel the same way when you hear about Sam the Beachcomber and how he came to be elected Commodore of the Club.

"You see, 'way back in colonial days, this outfit was more'n a club . . . that came later . . . it was a real honest-to-goodness sailing outfit. The folks that lived along the shore here used to sail out to ships that had been abandoned during a storm or something and salvage all they could. That was the way the people made their living.

"Plenty of times they saved all the people on board those ships too, and many were the good men lost attempting a difficult rescue. In those days the men had a fleet of small, fast craft that could get before the wind and outsail anything afloat. Came in mighty handy during the Revolution, too. In those days they'd patrol the seas beyond the horizon, spot British warships coming in and scoot back to warn the people so they'd have their defenses ready.

"It was the custom then that the fellow who owned the biggest boat in the club was automatically elected Commodore. Well, that rule just followed right down the line until this very day. After the Revolution the seafaring ships were made bigger and stronger and hardly ever broke up in the storms, so the people here turned to fishing. Finally all that was left of the adventuresome days was the Yacht Club here where the boys used to gather to talk over old times.

"Anyway, it wasn't so long ago that a lot of high-faluting tourists with more money than brains found this town, and they flocked in here like ducks on a pond. Before long you couldn't recognize the place. Each one wanted a bigger house than the next one, and it wasn't safe to cross the street anymore for fear of being run down by a limousine.

"It didn't take those snooty folks long to discover the Yacht Club. A few of them got in and that was the end of it for old timers like us. They voted in more and more of their friends until we got disgusted and hardly ever come near the place. They spent a fortune putting up this building and fixing the dock and all. Maybe it's a good thing they did. The old building would have fallen in by now.

"Well, the rules of the club are that anybody with a boat can belong to the club, and the one with the biggest boat is the Commodore. They went and spent millions on yachts trying to have the biggest one afloat. In the old days Henry Coogan was the Commodore for thirty years because he had a sixteen ton sloop, but to them rich fellers, that was no better than a dory.

"They put up signs that no self-respecting sailor would stand for. Why, we even had to wipe

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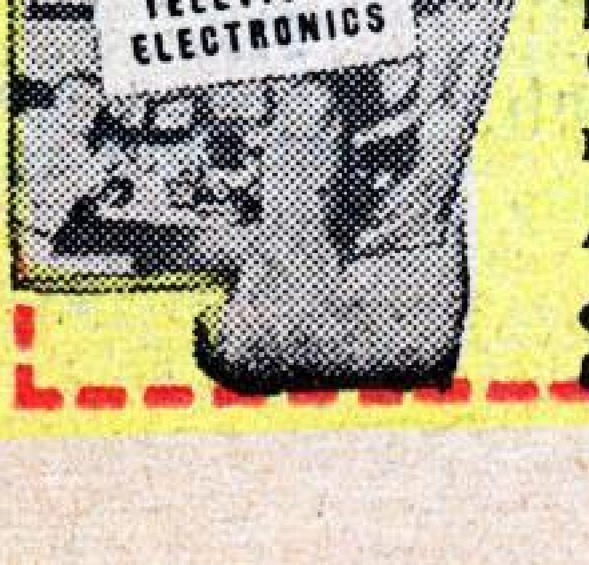

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the mud off our shoes before we went inside! The women went and put curtains on the windows and tried to get rid of our trophies, but we snagged them in time.

"It was awful. First one, then the other would drop out of the club. Sure, we were mad, but what could we do about it? I used to go down the beach where Sam, the Beachcomber spent his time dragging in stuff from the surf to sell to the junkie, and we'd talk about the good old days, but that never got us anywhere.

"Sam, you know, was a former club member too, but he broke so many rules they told him to stay out. A fine thing! Why, Sam was the one that put up the dock, and all his own work, too! They wouldn't let him in the club because he always needed a shave and would never wear a coat. Yep, the Yacht Club sure fell apart at the seams. Some of the other boys would drop in once in a while, but they always felt out of place and never stayed long.

"It was while the big race for Commodore was on that Sam called a general meeting of old members. We gathered down in his shack and he asked us how we'd like to take over the club once more. Naturally, we were all for that, of course, but he wouldn't let us in on his scheme. He told us to be down at the club that Saturday afternoon for the monthly meeting . . . without fail.

"We figgered and figgered, but we couldn't see how Sam was going to get all those stiff shirts out and us back in again. We did find out that he got some of the younger fellers . . . boys what had been in the navy during the last war . . . to help him out, but even they wouldn't talk.

"It seemed like Saturday would never come, but when it did we all showed up for the meeting. Boy, you should have seen their faces when we came up the walk. We sat down on the dock and listened to the chatter and heard a couple of fat guys argue about whose boat was the biggest. Right then one of them stopped with his mouth wide open and pointed to the cove. Yep, my eyes bugged out too.

"Around the sand spit that forms the cove comes Johnny Leeds in his power dory, and being towed behind him is the biggest submarine you ever laid eyes on! And who do you think is shouting orders from the conning tower? That's right . . . Sam, the Beachcomber. They pull up to the dock and Sam steps down and takes over the meeting. Right then he tells those big wigs that he is taking over the job as Commodore because his submarine is bigger than anything that's ever been in the bay.

"Son, there were more red faces that day than on a beachful of sun bathers. Half them people just got up without a word and marched off. You think they wanted a raggedy guy like Sam for Commodore? Shucks, no! Some of the men tried to argue about it, and they even called in the government, but that submarine . . . yep, the one you see right out there floating at anchor . . . was Sam's own personal property!

"What did you say? Oh . . . how'd he get it. Well, one day when he's beachcombing he sees this thing that looks like a periscope. It kept coming up and up. Sam rowed out to it, and sure enough, it was a Nazi submarine. It stayed just a little under the water, rising about an inch an hour. Sam got an anchor on it and kept it there. Then one night he and the boys went out to find it right up on the surface. Johnny Leeds was a sub man himself, you know, and he got it open.

"Not a soul was inside, and there was evidence that all the men had escaped through the safety hatch. From the barnacles and seaweed on it, the sub had been under for almost five years. You see, what had happened was this . . . one day the sub must have crash-dived, and something stuck in the valve system so she couldn't surface again. Well, ever since then the compressed air in her tanks had been leaking back into the hull containers very slowly until she blowed herself right to the surface!

"Hey . . . there's Sam now. Come on over and meet the Commodore, son!"

THE END

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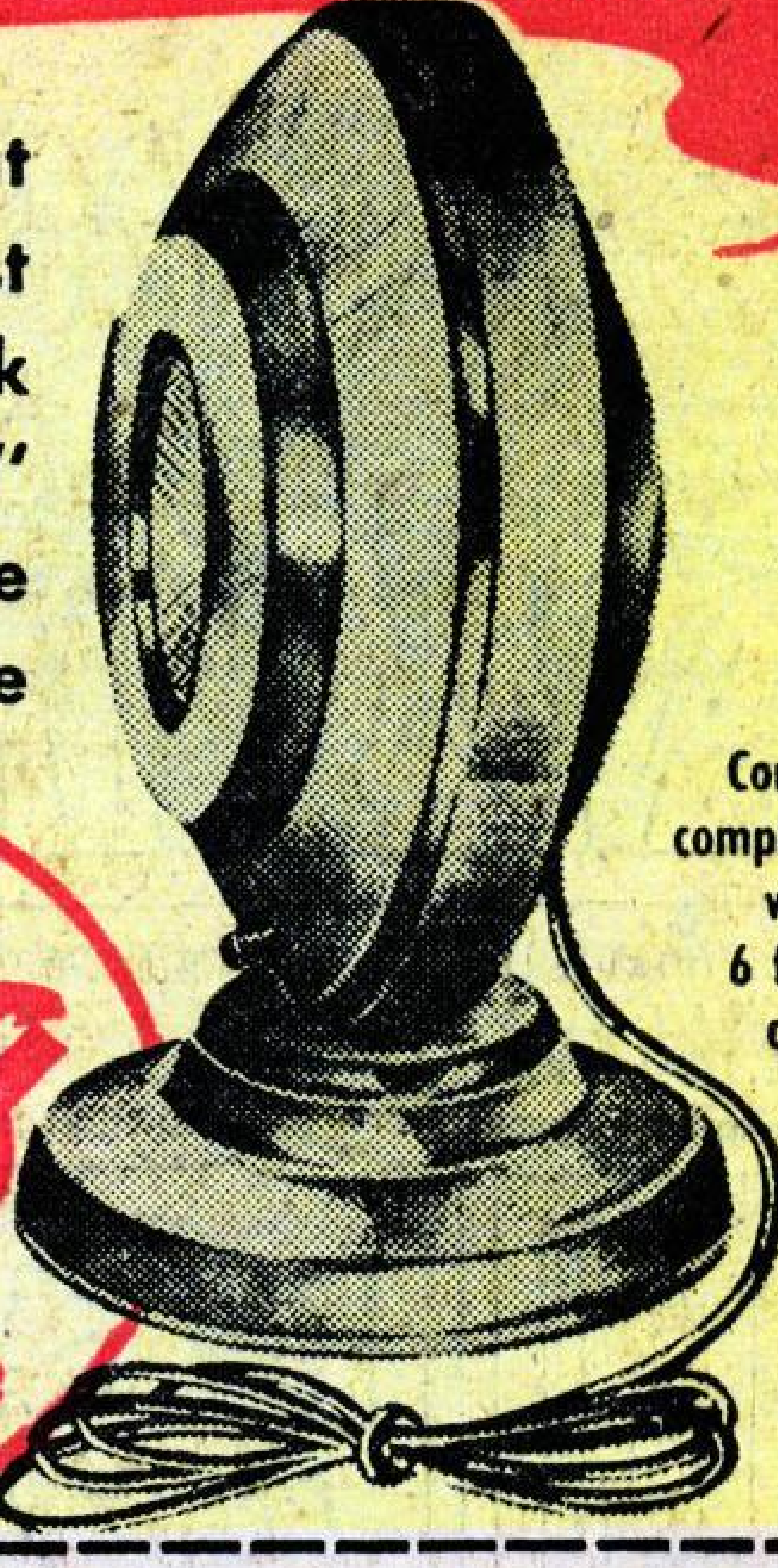

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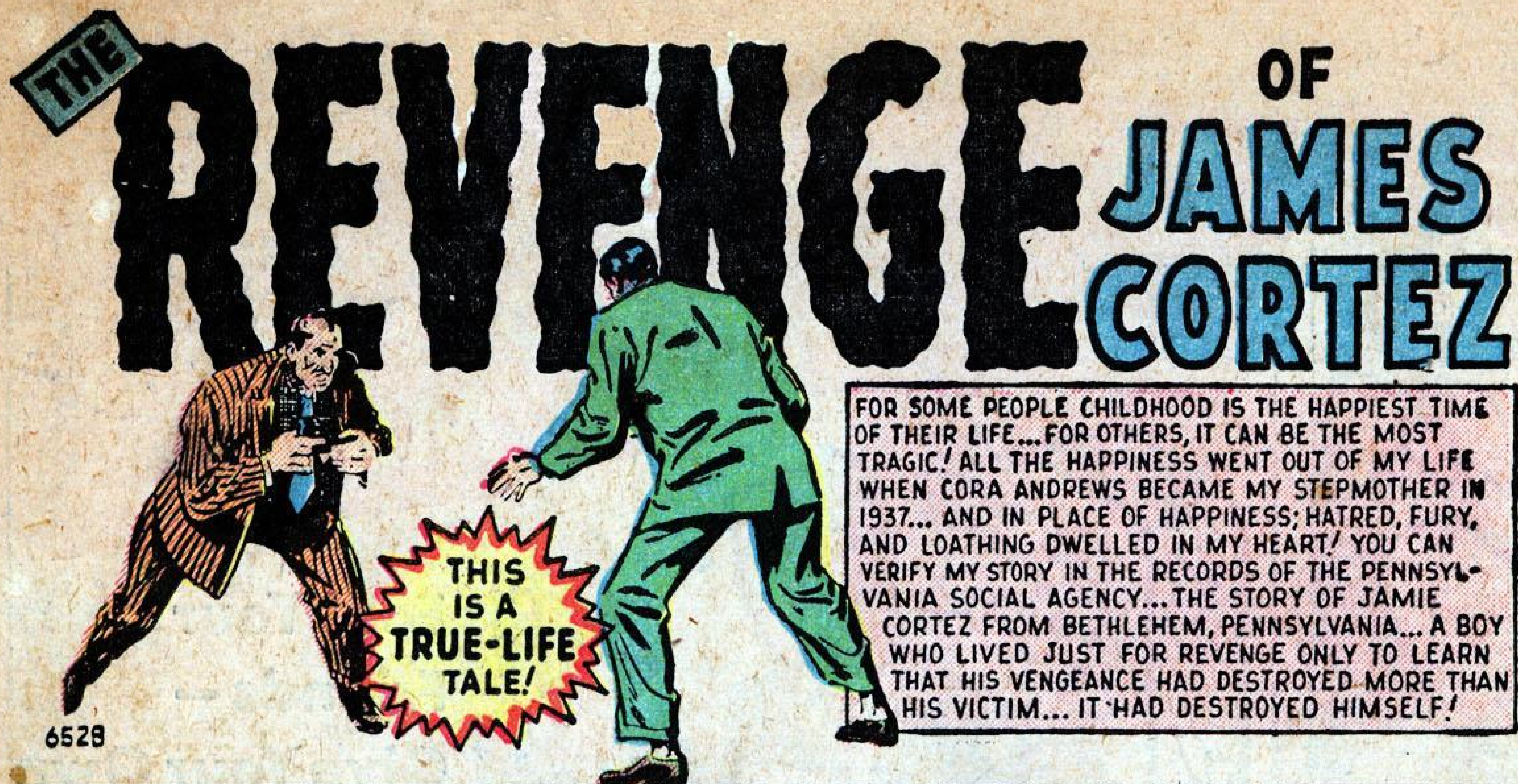
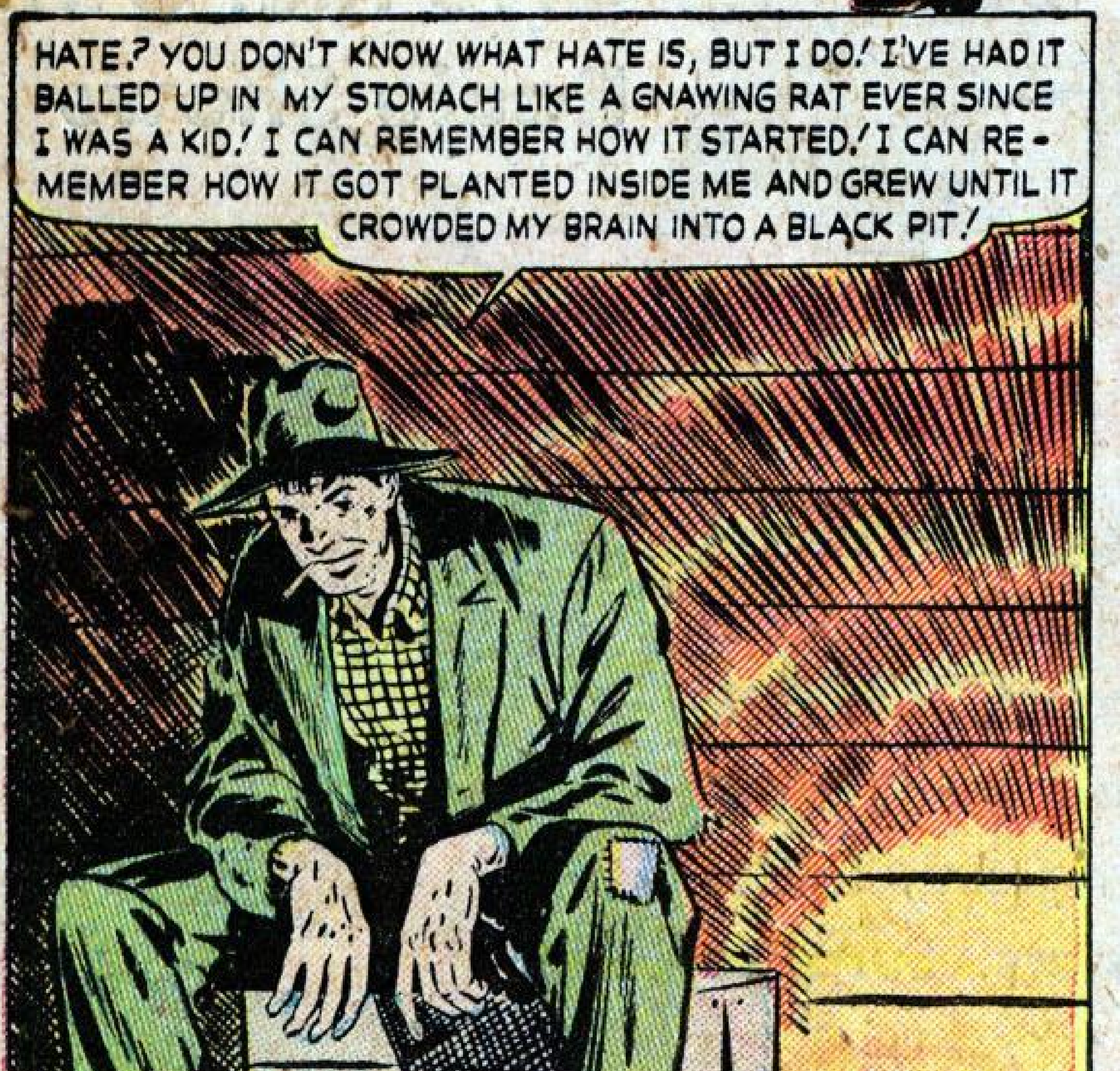
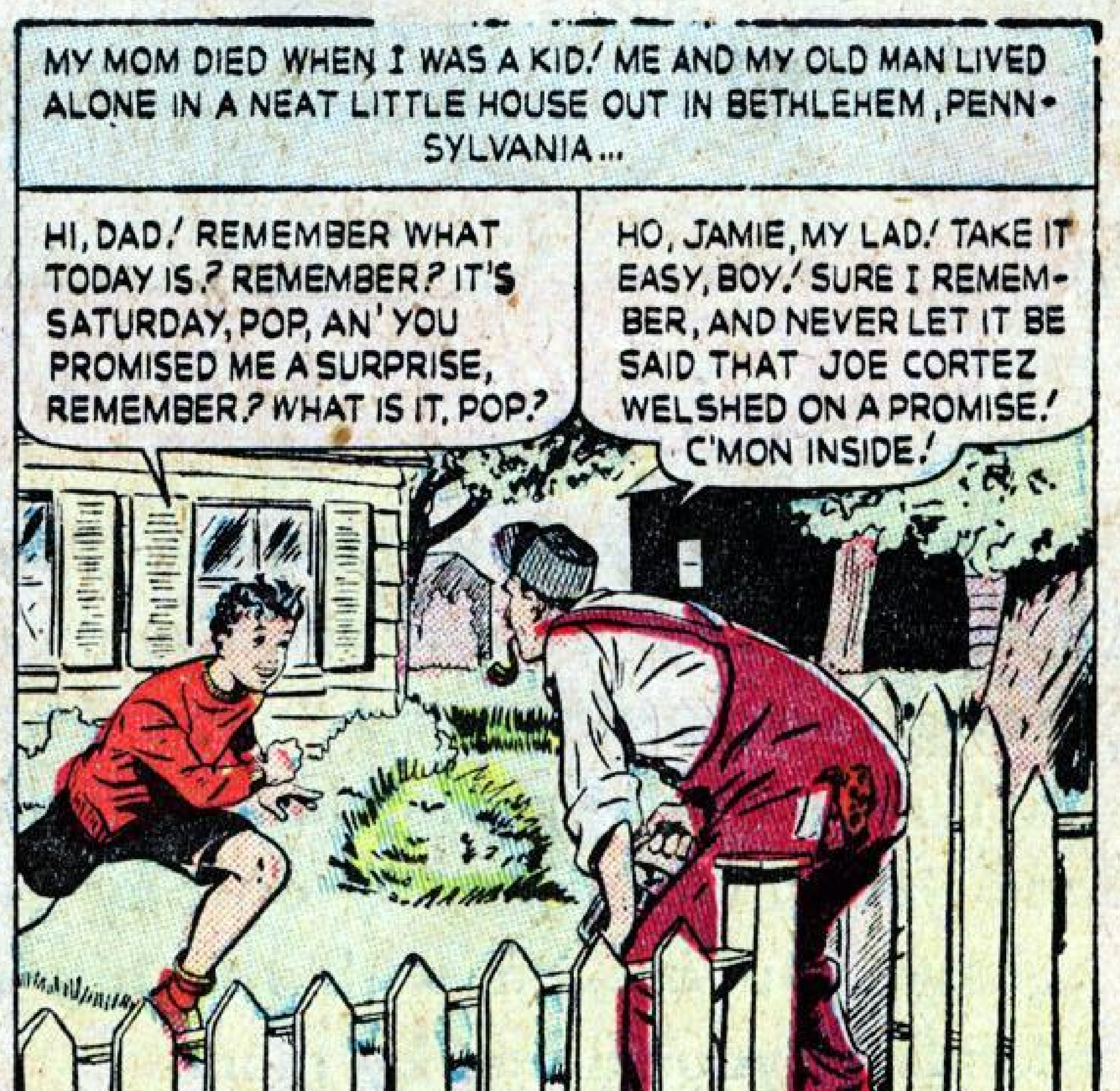
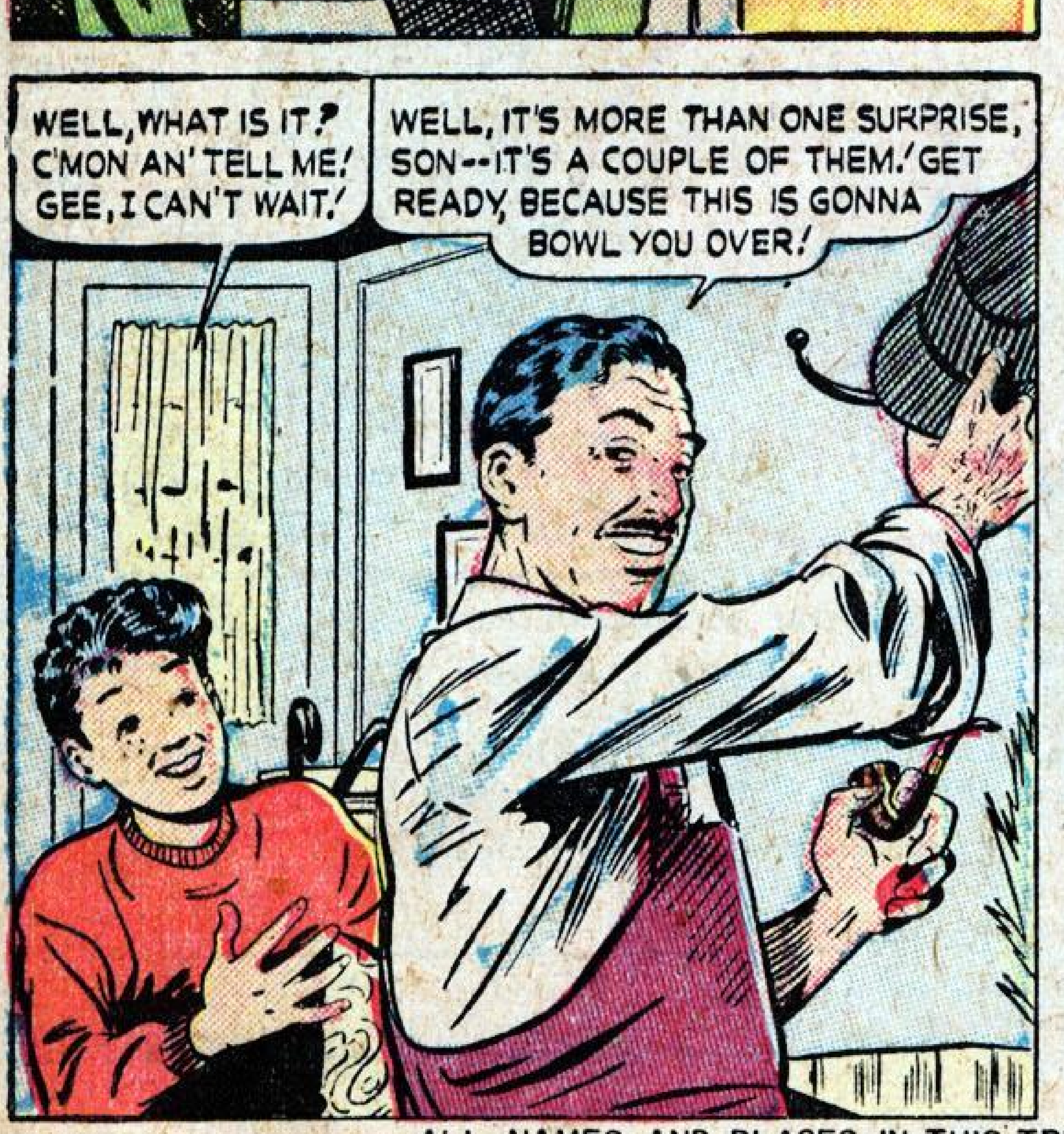
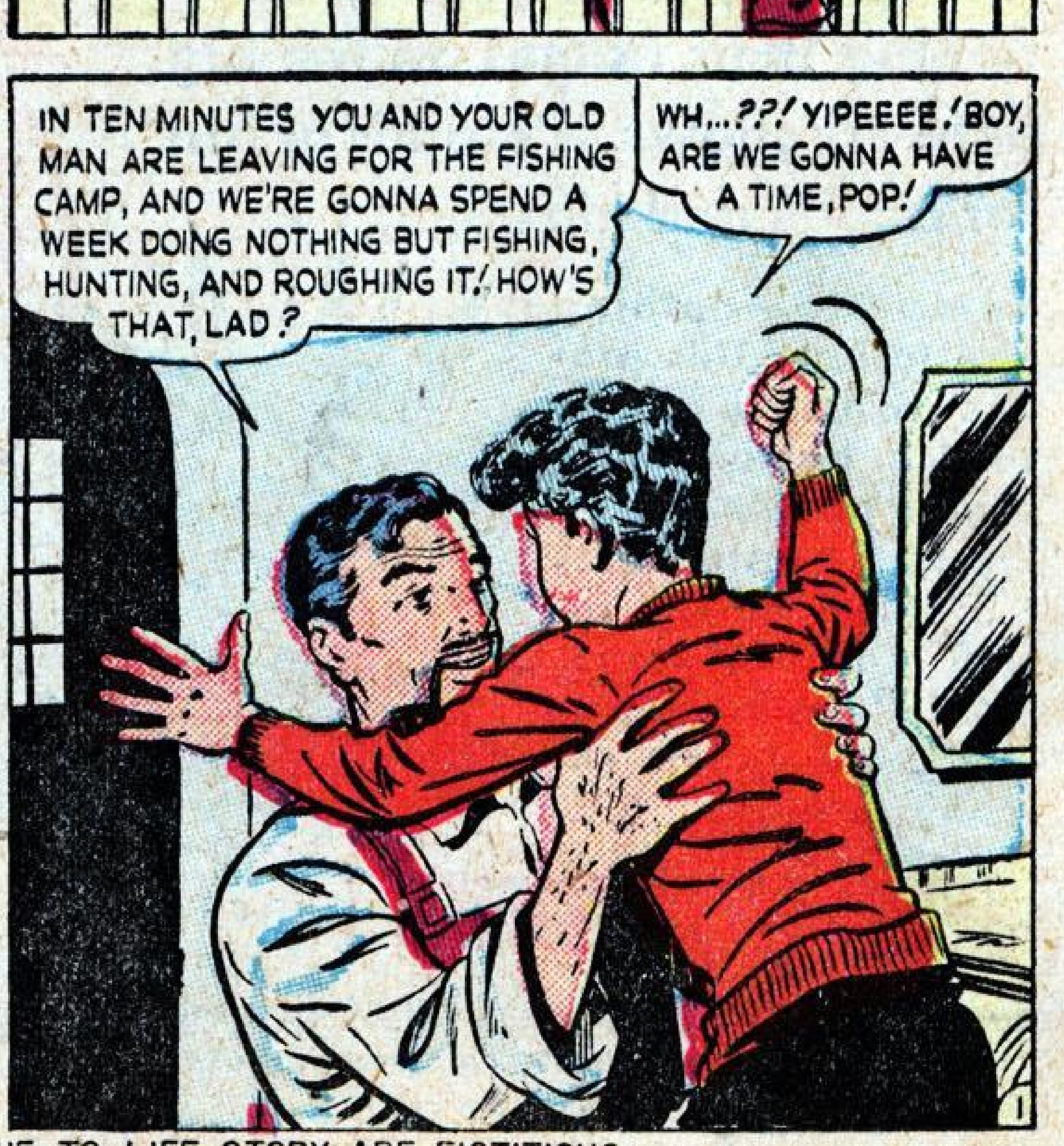
THE REVENGE OF JAMES CORTEZ


FOR SOME PEOPLE CHILDHOOD IS THE HAPPIEST TIME OF THEIR LIFE... FOR OTHERS, IT CAN BE THE MOST TRAGIC! ALL THE HAPPINESS WENT OUT OF MY LIFE WHEN CORA ANDREWS BECAME MY STEPMOTHER IN 1937... AND IN PLACE OF HAPPINESS; HATRED, FURY, AND LOATHING DWELLED IN MY HEART! YOU CAN VERIFY MY STORY IN THE RECORDS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIAL AGENCY... THE STORY OF JAMIE CORTEZ FROM BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA... A BOY WHO LIVED JUST FOR REVENGE ONLY TO LEARN THAT HIS VENGEANCE HAD DESTROYED MORE THAN HIS VICTIM... IT HAD DESTROYED HIMSELF!
THIS IS A TRUE-LIFE TALE!
6528


HATE? YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HATE IS, BUT I DO! I'VE HAD IT BALLED UP IN MY STOMACH LIKE A GNAWING RAT EVER SINCE I WAS A KID! I CAN REMEMBER HOW IT STARTED! I CAN REMEMBER HOW IT GOT PLANTED INSIDE ME AND GREW UNTIL IT CROWDED MY BRAIN INTO A BLACK PIT!


MY MOM DIED WHEN I WAS A KID! ME AND MY OLD MAN LIVED ALONE IN A NEAT LITTLE HOUSE OUT IN BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA...
HI, DAD! REMEMBER WHAT TODAY IS? REMEMBER? IT'S SATURDAY, POP, AN' YOU PROMISED ME A SURPRISE, REMEMBER? WHAT IS IT, POP?
HO, JAMIE, MY LAD! TAKE IT EASY, BOY! SURE I REMEMBER, AND NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT JOE CORTEZ WELSHED ON A PROMISE! C'MON INSIDE!

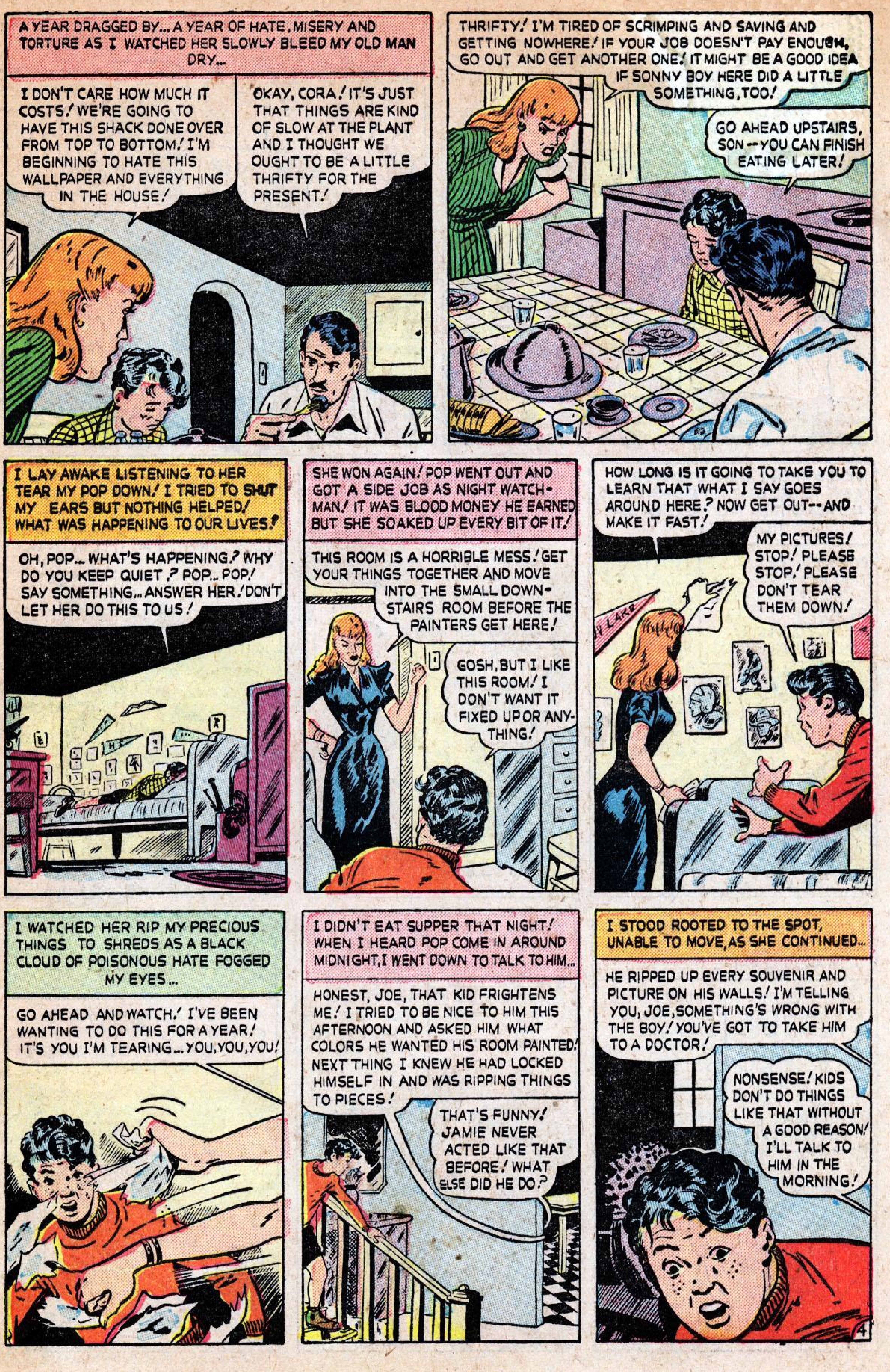

WELL, WHAT IS IT? C'MON AN' TELL ME! GEE, I CAN'T WAIT!
WELL, IT'S MORE THAN ONE SURPRISE, SON--IT'S A COUPLE OF THEM! GET READY, BECAUSE THIS IS GONNA BOWL YOU OVER!

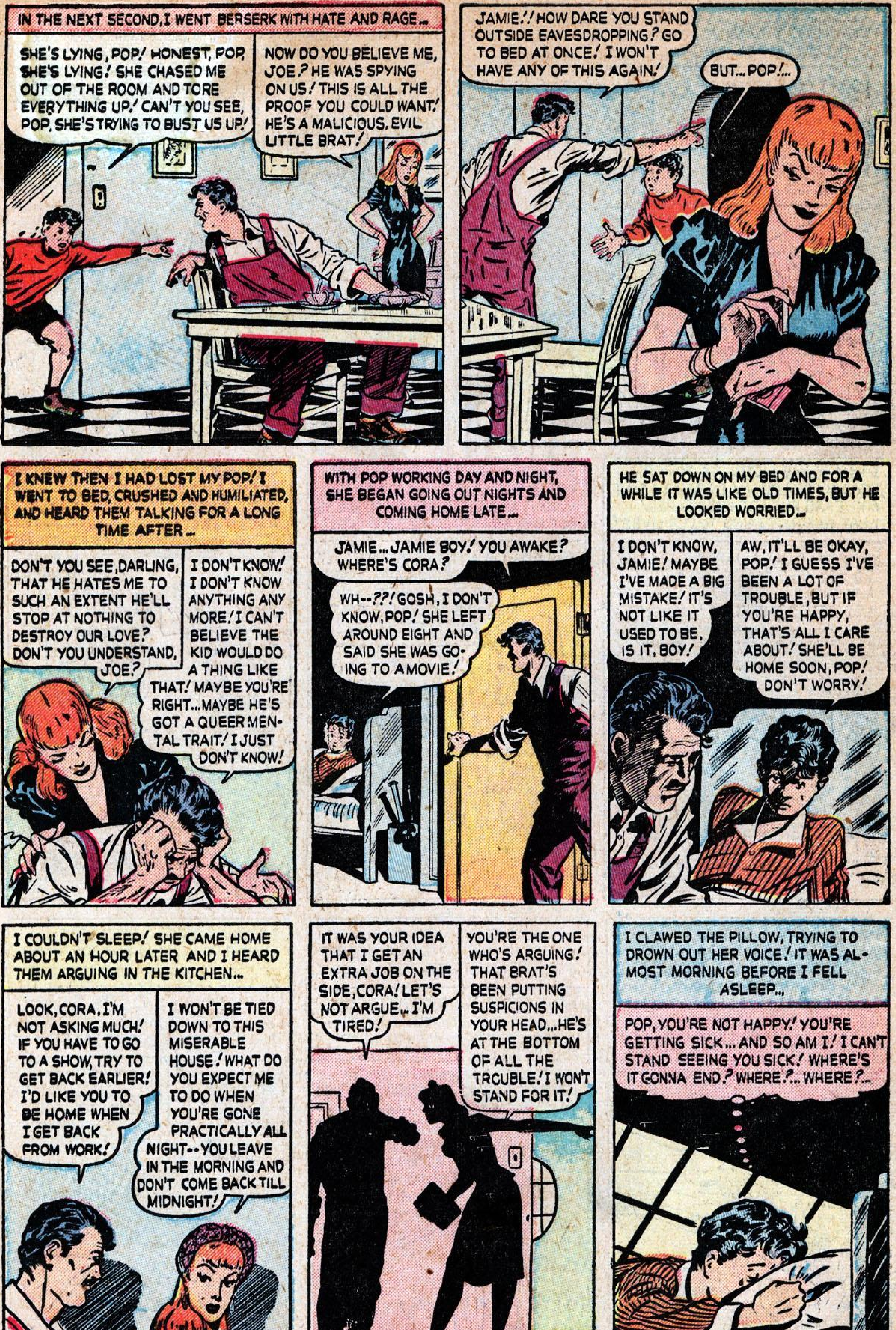

IN TEN MINUTES YOU AND YOUR OLD MAN ARE LEAVING FOR THE FISHING CAMP, AND WE'RE GONNA SPEND A WEEK DOING NOTHING BUT FISHING, HUNTING, AND ROUGHING IT! HOW'S THAT, LAD?
WH...??! YIPEEEE! BOY, ARE WE GONNA HAVE A TIME, POP!

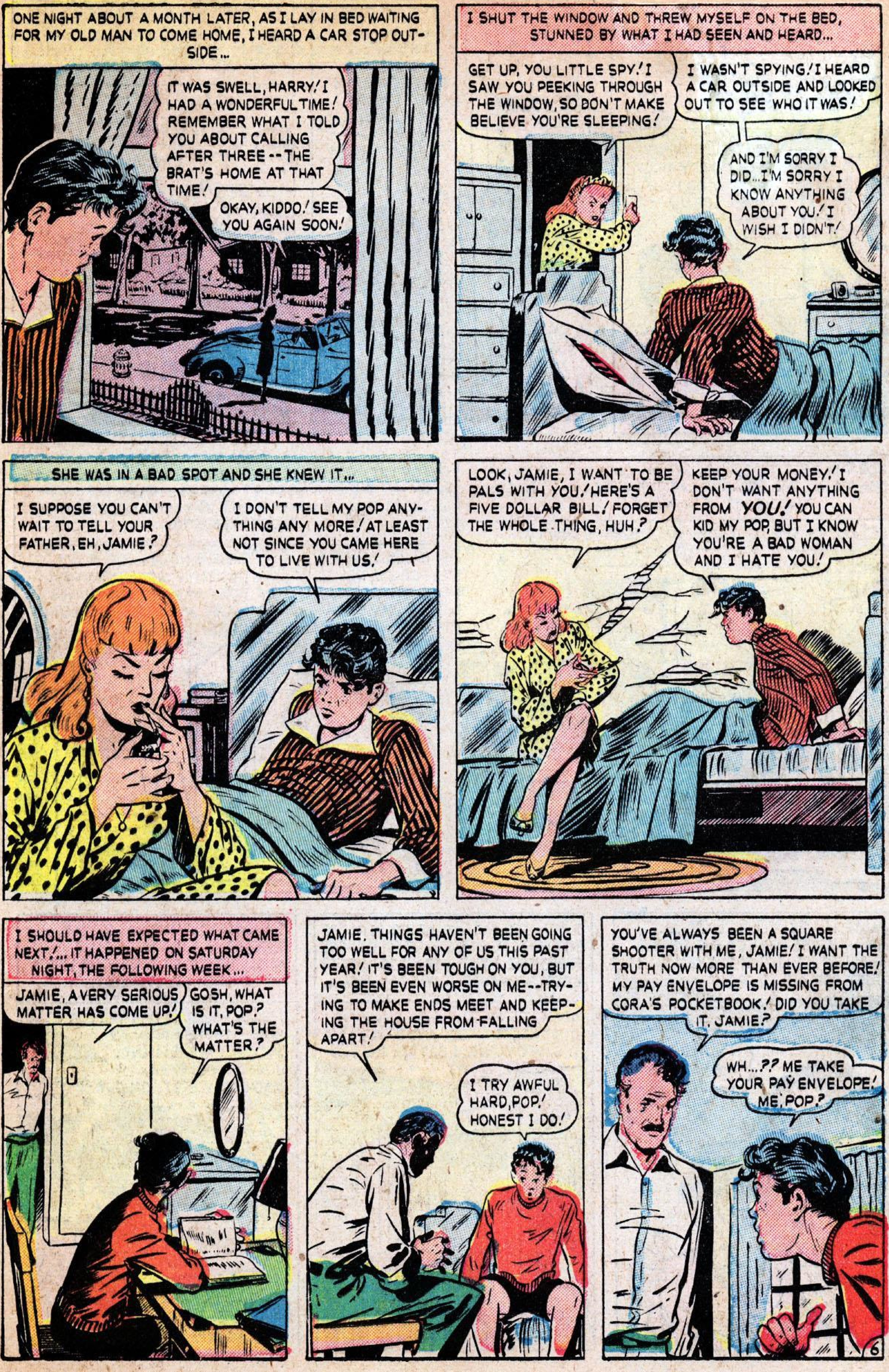
ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THIS TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THIS STORY IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

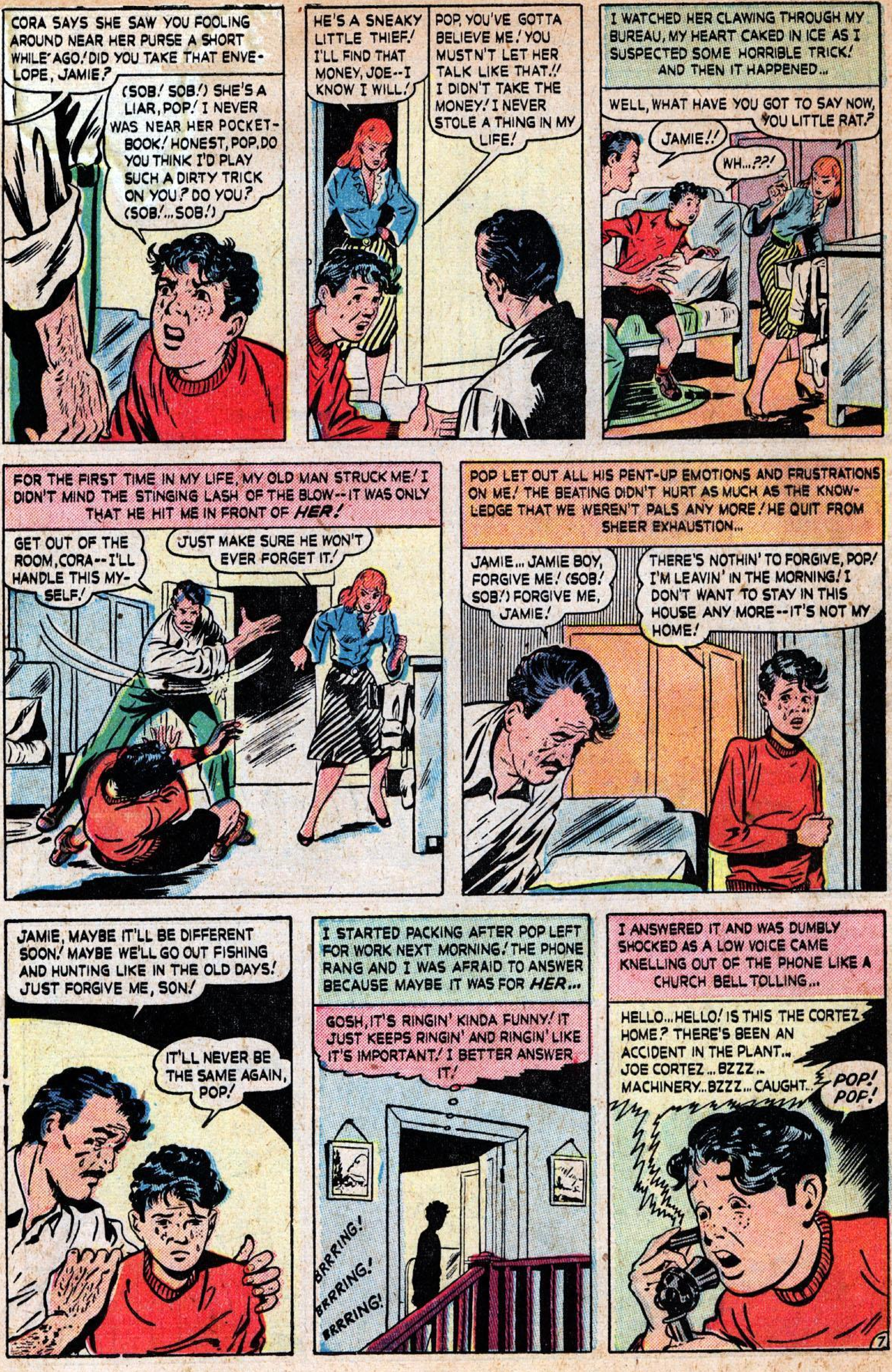
I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT TRIP BECAUSE IN THE BEGINNING IT BROUGHT ME AND MY OLD MAN EVEN CLOSER TOGETHER THAN WE EVER WERE...
THIS IS THE LIFE, EH, JAMIE BOY?
YEAH, POP! I DON'T WANT TO TALK AND SPOIL IT EVEN A LITTLE! YOU KNOW, POP--I REALLY, HONEST-TO-GOODNESS, LOVE YOU! YOU'RE THE BEST POP A GUY EVER HAD, NO KIDDIN'!
I'VE GOT ANOTHER SURPRISE FOR YOU, SON, AND I HOPE YOU'RE GONNA LIKE IT AS MUCH AS THIS ONE! YOU KNOW, IT ISN'T RIGHT FOR A COUPLE OF GUYS LIKE US TO BE ALONE!
GEE, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, POP? WE GET ALONG SWELL! WE'RE PALS!
SURE WE GET ALONG, KID, BUT IT ISN'T RIGHT! EVER SINCE YOUR MOM DIED, WE'VE BEEN HITTING IT ALONE! SOMETIMES I GET LONESOME FOR THE SOUND OF HER VOICE AGAIN! YOU NEED A WOMAN AROUND TOO, JAMIE!
A WOMAN? I DON'T UNDERSTAND, POP! MOM WAS THE ONLY WOMAN WE GUYS NEEDED TO HAVE AROUND!
I GOT PANICKY! I GOT THE FEELING I WAS BEING DUMPED...
POP, AM I A LOT OF TROUBLE? ARE YOU TRYIN' TO GET RID OF ME, POP? I HELP AROUND ALL I CAN! SOON I'LL BE CHIPPING IN WITH THE MONEY, TOO! I'M NOT MUCH BOTHER, AM I, POP?
QUIT TALKING LIKE THAT, JAMIE! YOU AND ME ARE GONNA STICK TOGETHER ALWAYS!...I'M GOING TO GET MARRIED AGAIN, JAMIE, THAT'S ALL!
HIS WORDS HIT ME LIKE A BOLT OF LIGHTNING! I NEVER THOUGHT OF MY OLD MAN WITH ANYBODY BUT MY MOM...
YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE CORA, JAMIE! SHE'S A FINE WOMAN AND SHE'LL HELP US MAKE A REAL HOME! SHE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU AND WE'LL HAVE LOTS OF FUN TOGETHER!
BUT... POP...
I WENT NUTS WITH GRIEF! ME SHARE MY POP WITH SOME STRANGER? I RAN INTO THE WOODS AND KEPT RUNNING TILL MY LEGS GAVE OUT..
(SOB! SOB!) LEAVE ME ALONE! (SOB! SOB!) GO AWAY, POP!
JAMIE!...JAMIE BOY! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I SOBBED MY KID HEART OUT WHILE HE HELD ME..
C'MON, LAD, DON'T CARRY ON SO--EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY! THERE'LL ALWAYS BE ONLY US TWO, JAMIE! NOTHING'S EVER GOING TO COME BETWEEN US!
BUT IT HAS, POP! (SOB! SOB!) YOU SAID SO YOURSELF!
I CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP, NESTLED AGAINST MY OLD MAN'S CHEST..
GO TO SLEEP, BOY! SURE YOU'RE UPSET, BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO CORA! SHE'LL BE A GOOD MOTHER TO YOU, JAMIE! I PROMISE SHE WILL!

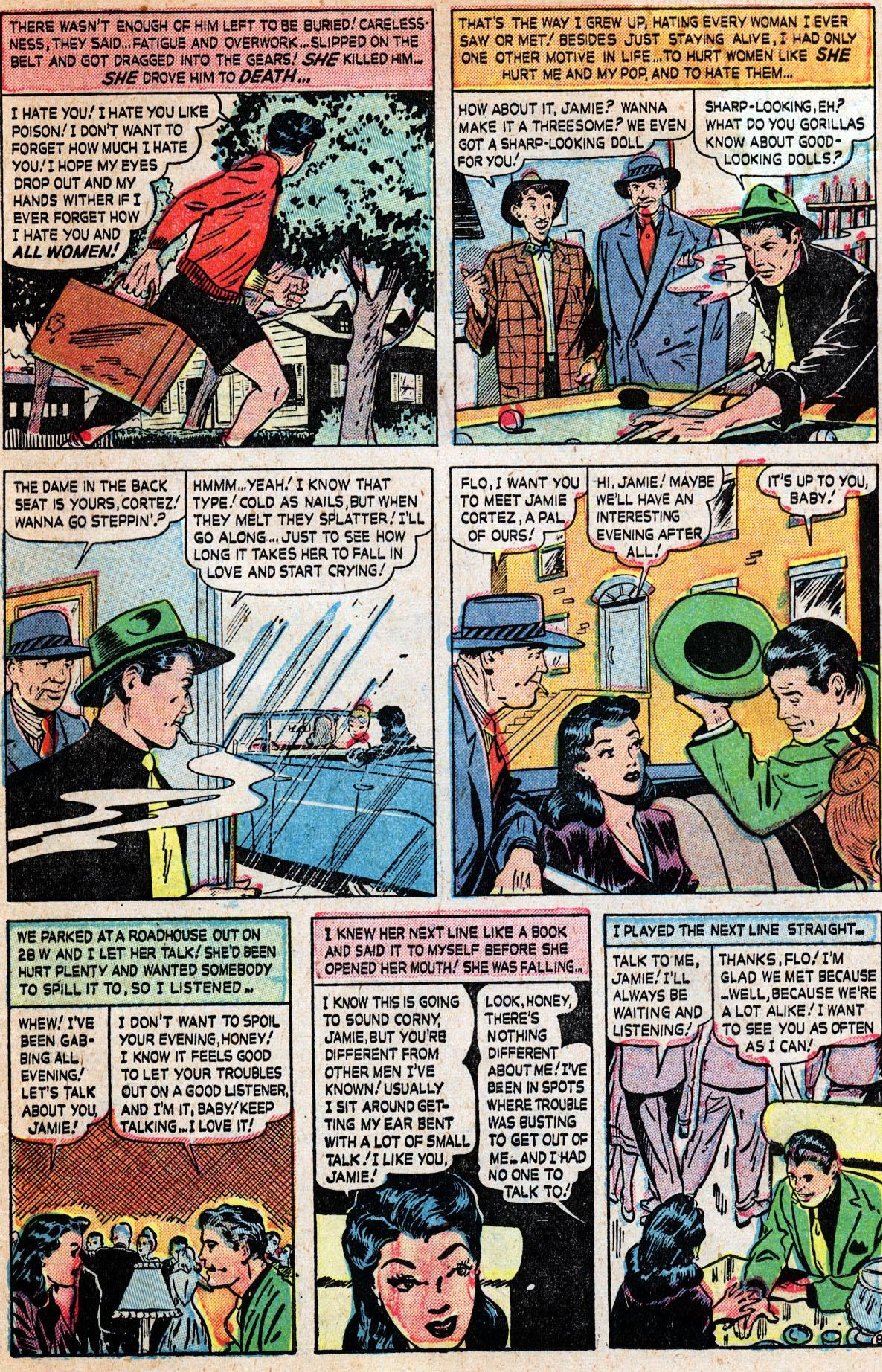
I HATED HER AS SOON AS I SAW HER, AND I SENSED THAT SHE HATED ME, TOO! I TRIED HARD, FOR MY POP'S SAKE...
SO THIS IS JAMIE! WELL, WHAT A BIG, FINE BOY YOU ARE! AREN'T YOU GOING TO KISS YOUR NEW MOM?
TAKE IT EASY, HONEY-- THIS IS ALL NEW TO THE KID! WE'RE ALL GOING TO GET ALONG LIKE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY!
YEAH, SURE! HIYA... CORA...
I WAS ONLY TWELVE, BUT I SAW THROUGH THAT WOMAN WITH THE KEEN EYES OF A KID, AND SHE KNEW I DID...
WH... ER... I'LL CALL YOU LATER!
HI, CORA! IS POP HOME YET?
WHAT'S THE IDEA-- SNEAKING INTO THE HOUSE LIKE A RAT? YOU WERE LISTENING AT THE DOOR, WEREN'T YOU? I KNOW YOUR CUTE LITTLE TRICKS, BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO WORK!
I DIDN'T SNEAK IN AND I WASN'T LISTENING! THIS IS MY HOUSE AND I DON'T HAVE TO SNEAK AROUND IN IT!
YOUR HOUSE! WELL, I LIKE THAT! THIS IS *MY* HOUSE, YOU UNDERSTAND? IT'S BEEN MINE SINCE I MARRIED YOUR FATHER! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT IT ISN'T GOING TO WORK, SONNY BOY!
IT'S MY HOUSE ... ME AN' MY POP'S! IT'LL NEVER BE YOURS BECAUSE YOU DON'T BELONG!
SHE KNOCKED ME OVER WITH HER FIST AND WAS CLAWING FOR MY THROAT LIKE A CRAZY TIGER, WHEN MY OLD MAN WALKED IN...
YOU NASTY LITTLE BRAT! I'LL TEAR YOUR EYES OUT, YOU...
HERE... HERE! WAIT A MINUTE! HOLD IT, CORA!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, CORA?
IT'S HIM, THE LITTLE SWINE! I CAN'T STAND HIM SNEAKING AROUND ALL DAY, GLARING AT ME EVERY SECOND, LOOKING AT ME AS THOUGH I WERE A STRANGER! I WON'T PUT UP WITH IT, JOE... I JUST WON'T!
POP TOOK ME UPSTAIRS TO MY BEDROOM AND HAD A LONG TALK WITH ME...
LOOK, SON, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AND I DON'T CARE! MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT AND MAYBE YOU WEREN'T! BUT WE'VE JUST GOT TO ALL PULL TOGETHER, JAMIE! YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE CORA FEEL AT HOME BECAUSE THIS *IS* HER HOME!
HER HOME?... HER HOME? OH, POP, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO US? THIS IS *OUR* HOME... YOURS, MINE, AND... MOM'S!
OKAY, POP... I'M SORRY!
DACKS
HS

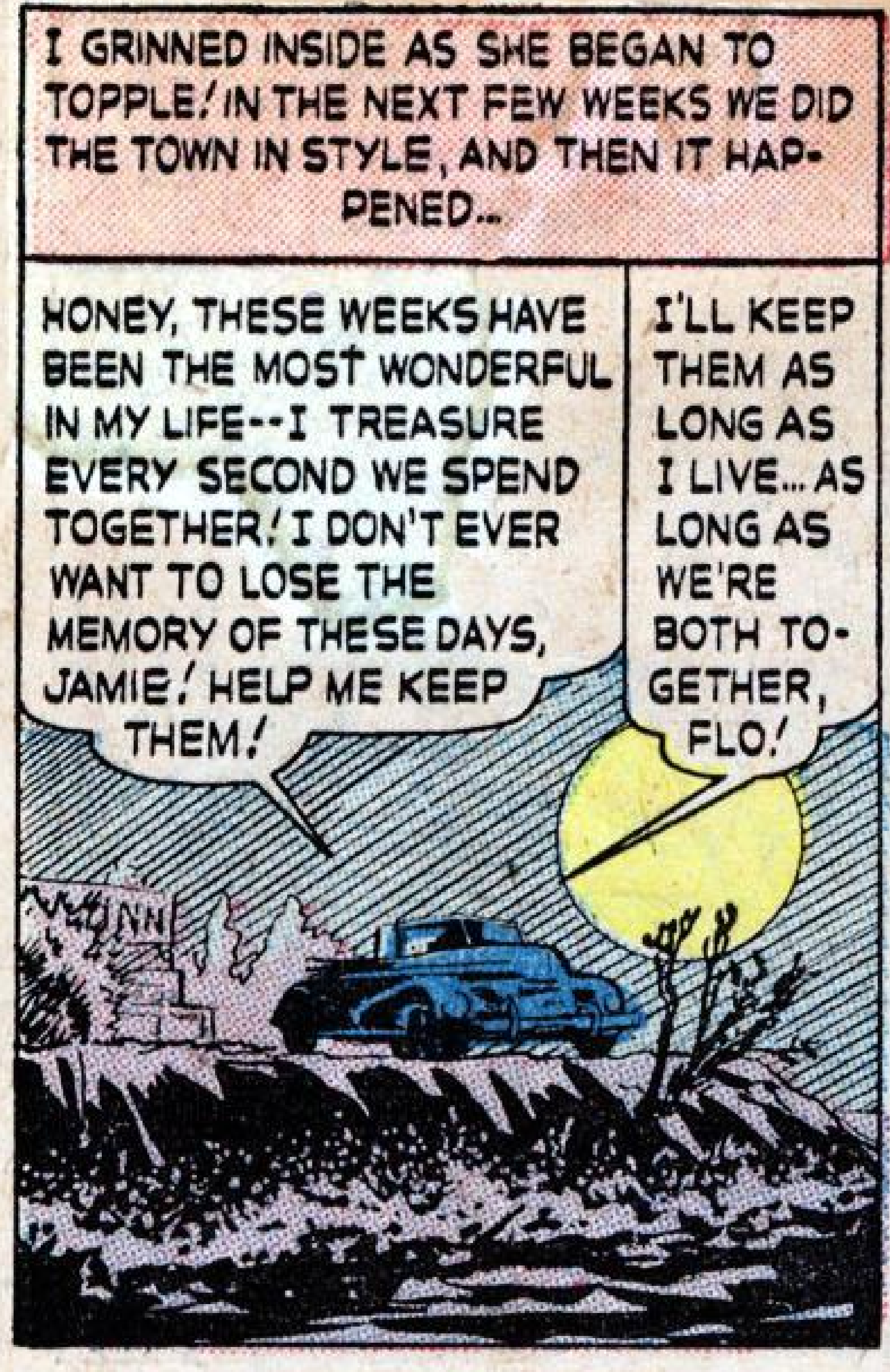

A YEAR DRAGGED BY... A YEAR OF HATE, MISERY AND TORTURE AS I WATCHED HER SLOWLY BLEED MY OLD MAN DRY...
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH IT COSTS! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THIS SHACK DONE OVER FROM TOP TO BOTTOM! I'M BEGINNING TO HATE THIS WALLPAPER AND EVERYTHING IN THE HOUSE!
OKAY, CORA! IT'S JUST THAT THINGS ARE KIND OF SLOW AT THE PLANT AND I THOUGHT WE OUGHT TO BE A LITTLE THRIFTY FOR THE PRESENT!
THRIFTY! I'M TIRED OF SCRIMPING AND SAVING AND GETTING NOWHERE! IF YOUR JOB DOESN'T PAY ENOUGH, GO OUT AND GET ANOTHER ONE! IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA IF SONNY BOY HERE DID A LITTLE SOMETHING, TOO!
GO AHEAD UPSTAIRS, SON -- YOU CAN FINISH EATING LATER!
I LAY AWAKE LISTENING TO HER TEAR MY POP DOWN! I TRIED TO SHUT MY EARS BUT NOTHING HELPED! WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO OUR LIVES?
OH, POP... WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY DO YOU KEEP QUIET? POP... POP! SAY SOMETHING... ANSWER HER! DON'T LET HER DO THIS TO US!
SHE WON AGAIN! POP WENT OUT AND GOT A SIDE JOB AS NIGHT WATCHMAN! IT WAS BLOOD MONEY HE EARNED BUT SHE SOAKED UP EVERY BIT OF IT!
THIS ROOM IS A HORRIBLE MESS! GET YOUR THINGS TOGETHER AND MOVE INTO THE SMALL DOWNSTAIRS ROOM BEFORE THE PAINTERS GET HERE!
GOSH, BUT I LIKE THIS ROOM! I DON'T WANT IT FIXED UP OR ANYTHING!
HOW LONG IS IT GOING TO TAKE YOU TO LEARN THAT WHAT I SAY GOES AROUND HERE? NOW GET OUT-- AND MAKE IT FAST!
MY PICTURES! STOP! PLEASE STOP! PLEASE DON'T TEAR THEM DOWN!
I WATCHED HER RIP MY PRECIOUS THINGS TO SHREDS AS A BLACK CLOUD OF POISONOUS HATE FOGGED MY EYES...
GO AHEAD AND WATCH! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO THIS FOR A YEAR! IT'S YOU I'M TEARING... YOU, YOU, YOU!
I DIDN'T EAT SUPPER THAT NIGHT! WHEN I HEARD POP COME IN AROUND MIDNIGHT, I WENT DOWN TO TALK TO HIM...
HONEST, JOE, THAT KID FRIGHTENS ME! I TRIED TO BE NICE TO HIM THIS AFTERNOON AND ASKED HIM WHAT COLORS HE WANTED HIS ROOM PAINTED! NEXT THING I KNEW HE HAD LOCKED HIMSELF IN AND WAS RIPPING THINGS TO PIECES!
THAT'S FUNNY! JAMIE NEVER ACTED LIKE THAT BEFORE! WHAT ELSE DID HE DO?
I STOOD ROOTED TO THE SPOT, UNABLE TO MOVE, AS SHE CONTINUED...
HE RIPPED UP EVERY SOUVENIR AND PICTURE ON HIS WALLS! I'M TELLING YOU, JOE, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE BOY! YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR!
NONSENSE! KIDS DON'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT WITHOUT A GOOD REASON! I'LL TALK TO HIM IN THE MORNING!
4

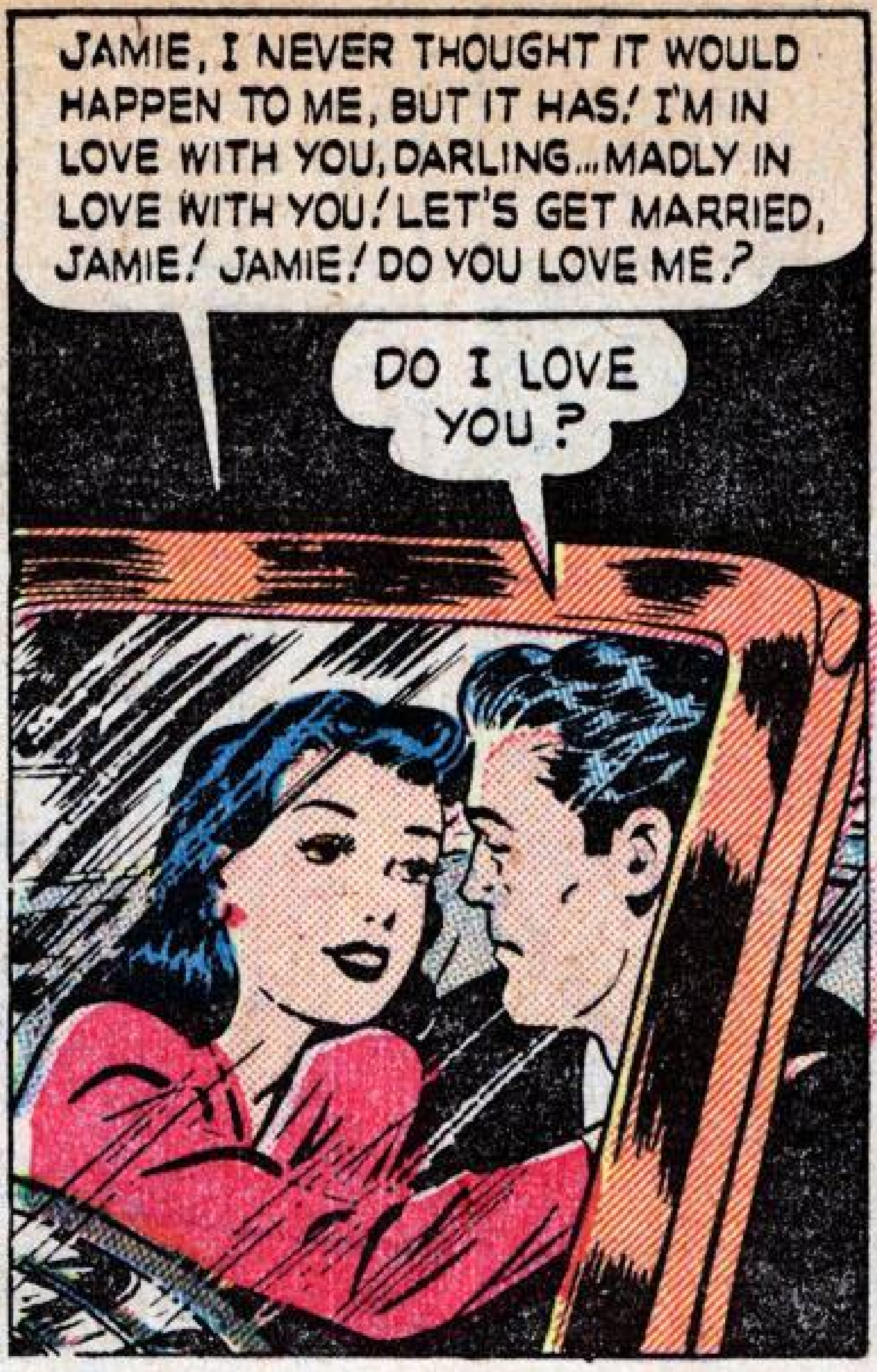

IN THE NEXT SECOND, I WENT BERSERK WITH HATE AND RAGE...
SHE'S LYING, POP! HONEST, POP, SHE'S LYING! SHE CHASED ME OUT OF THE ROOM AND TORE EVERYTHING UP! CAN'T YOU SEE, POP, SHE'S TRYING TO BUST US UP!
NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME, JOE? HE WAS SPYING ON US! THIS IS ALL THE PROOF YOU COULD WANT! HE'S A MALICIOUS, EVIL LITTLE BRAT!
JAMIE!! HOW DARE YOU STAND OUTSIDE EAVESDROPPING? GO TO BED AT ONCE! I WON'T HAVE ANY OF THIS AGAIN!
BUT... POP!...
I KNEW THEN I HAD LOST MY POP! I WENT TO BED, CRUSHED AND HUMILIATED, AND HEARD THEM TALKING FOR A LONG TIME AFTER...
DON'T YOU SEE, DARLING, THAT HE HATES ME TO SUCH AN EXTENT HE'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO DESTROY OUR LOVE? DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, JOE?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ANY MORE! I CAN'T BELIEVE THE KID WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT! MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT... MAYBE HE'S GOT A QUEER MENTAL TRAIT! I JUST DON'T KNOW!
WITH POP WORKING DAY AND NIGHT, SHE BEGAN GOING OUT NIGHTS AND COMING HOME LATE...
JAMIE... JAMIE BOY! YOU AWAKE? WHERE'S CORA?
WH--??! GOSH, I DON'T KNOW, POP! SHE LEFT AROUND EIGHT AND SAID SHE WAS GOING TO A MOVIE!
HE SAT DOWN ON MY BED AND FOR A WHILE IT WAS LIKE OLD TIMES, BUT HE LOOKED WORRIED...
I DON'T KNOW, JAMIE! MAYBE I'VE MADE A BIG MISTAKE! IT'S NOT LIKE IT USED TO BE, IS IT, BOY!
AW, IT'LL BE OKAY, POP! I GUESS I'VE BEEN A LOT OF TROUBLE, BUT IF YOU'RE HAPPY, THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT! SHE'LL BE HOME SOON, POP! DON'T WORRY!
I COULDN'T SLEEP! SHE CAME HOME ABOUT AN HOUR LATER AND I HEARD THEM ARGUING IN THE KITCHEN...
LOOK, CORA, I'M NOT ASKING MUCH! IF YOU HAVE TO GO TO A SHOW, TRY TO GET BACK EARLIER! I'D LIKE YOU TO BE HOME WHEN I GET BACK FROM WORK!
I WON'T BE TIED DOWN TO THIS MISERABLE HOUSE! WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO WHEN YOU'RE GONE PRACTICALLY ALL NIGHT--YOU LEAVE IN THE MORNING AND DON'T COME BACK TILL MIDNIGHT!
IT WAS YOUR IDEA THAT I GET AN EXTRA JOB ON THE SIDE, CORA! LET'S NOT ARGUE... I'M TIRED!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ARGUING! THAT BRAT'S BEEN PUTTING SUSPICIONS IN YOUR HEAD... HE'S AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL THE TROUBLE! I WON'T STAND FOR IT!
I CLAWED THE PILLOW, TRYING TO DROWN OUT HER VOICE! IT WAS ALMOST MORNING BEFORE I FELL ASLEEP...
POP, YOU'RE NOT HAPPY! YOU'RE GETTING SICK... AND SO AM I! I CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU SICK! WHERE'S IT GONNA END? WHERE?... WHERE?...
5

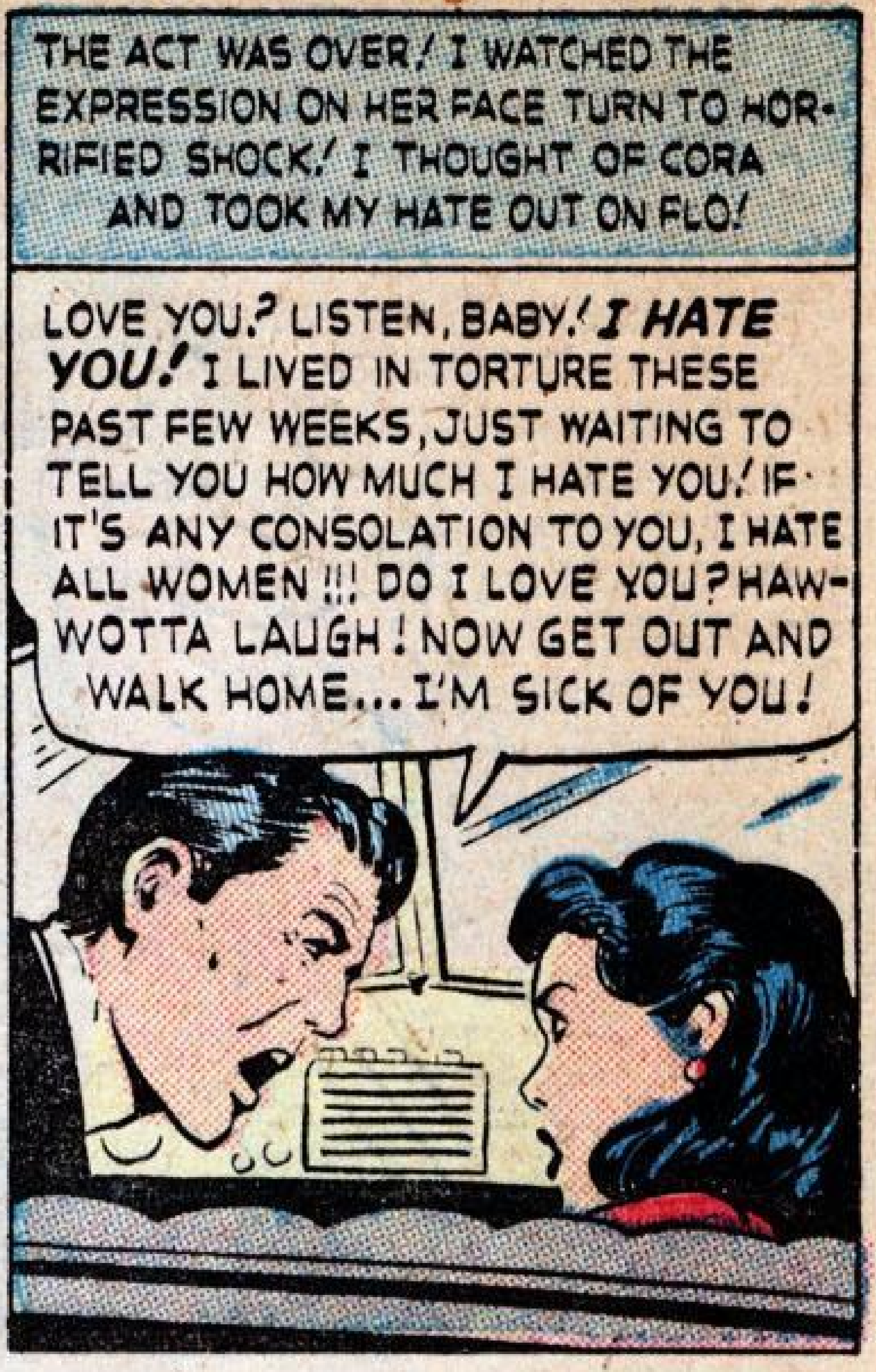

ONE NIGHT ABOUT A MONTH LATER, AS I LAY IN BED WAITING FOR MY OLD MAN TO COME HOME, I HEARD A CAR STOP OUTSIDE...
IT WAS SWELL, HARRY! I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME! REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT CALLING AFTER THREE -- THE BRAT'S HOME AT THAT TIME!
OKAY, KIDDO! SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!
I SHUT THE WINDOW AND THREW MYSELF ON THE BED, STUNNED BY WHAT I HAD SEEN AND HEARD...
GET UP, YOU LITTLE SPY! I SAW YOU PEEKING THROUGH THE WINDOW, SO DON'T MAKE BELIEVE YOU'RE SLEEPING!
I WASN'T SPYING! I HEARD A CAR OUTSIDE AND LOOKED OUT TO SEE WHO IT WAS!
AND I'M SORRY I DID... I'M SORRY I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU! I WISH I DIDN'T!
SHE WAS IN A BAD SPOT AND SHE KNEW IT...
I SUPPOSE YOU CAN'T WAIT TO TELL YOUR FATHER, EH, JAMIE?
I DON'T TELL MY POP ANYTHING ANY MORE! AT LEAST NOT SINCE YOU CAME HERE TO LIVE WITH US!
LOOK, JAMIE, I WANT TO BE PALS WITH YOU! HERE'S A FIVE DOLLAR BILL! FORGET THE WHOLE THING, HUH?
KEEP YOUR MONEY! I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM *YOU!* YOU CAN KID MY POP, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE A BAD WOMAN AND I HATE YOU!
I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED WHAT CAME NEXT!... IT HAPPENED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, THE FOLLOWING WEEK...
JAMIE, A VERY SERIOUS MATTER HAS COME UP!
GOSH, WHAT IS IT, POP? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
JAMIE, THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING TOO WELL FOR ANY OF US THIS PAST YEAR! IT'S BEEN TOUGH ON YOU, BUT IT'S BEEN EVEN WORSE ON ME -- TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET AND KEEPING THE HOUSE FROM FALLING APART!
I TRY AWFUL HARD, POP! HONEST I DO!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SQUARE SHOOTER WITH ME, JAMIE! I WANT THE TRUTH NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE! MY PAY ENVELOPE IS MISSING FROM CORA'S POCKETBOOK! DID YOU TAKE IT, JAMIE?
WH...?? ME TAKE YOUR PAY ENVELOPE! ME, POP?

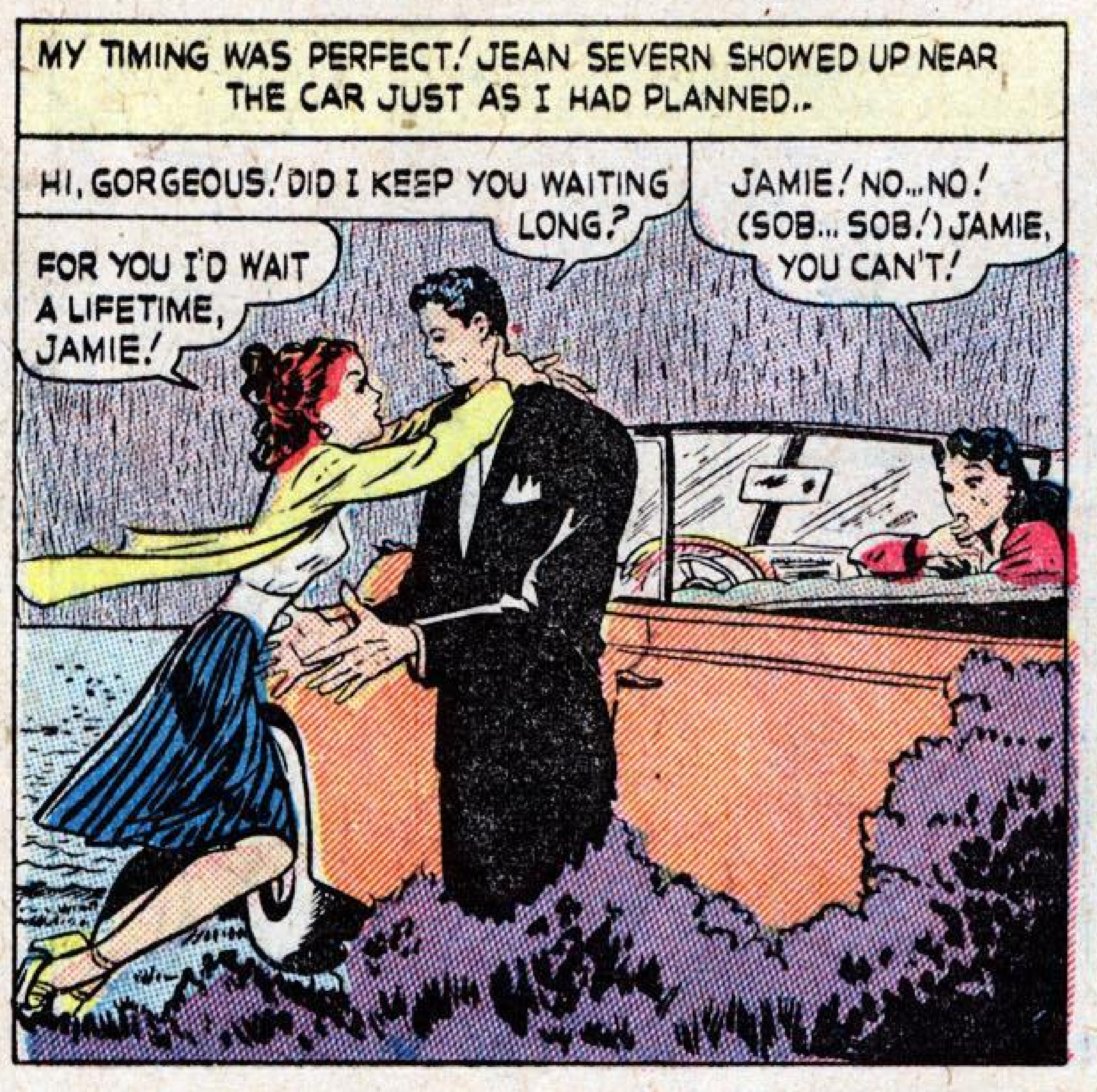

CORA SAYS SHE SAW YOU FOOLING AROUND NEAR HER PURSE A SHORT WHILE AGO! DID YOU TAKE THAT ENVELOPE, JAMIE?
(SOB! SOB!) SHE'S A LIAR, POP! I NEVER WAS NEAR HER POCKETBOOK! HONEST, POP, DO YOU THINK I'D PLAY SUCH A DIRTY TRICK ON YOU? DO YOU? (SOB!...SOB!)
HE'S A SNEAKY LITTLE THIEF! I'LL FIND THAT MONEY, JOE--I KNOW I WILL!
POP, YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE ME! YOU MUSTN'T LET HER TALK LIKE THAT!! I DIDN'T TAKE THE MONEY! I NEVER STOLE A THING IN MY LIFE!
I WATCHED HER CLAWING THROUGH MY BUREAU, MY HEART CAKED IN ICE AS I SUSPECTED SOME HORRIBLE TRICK! AND THEN IT HAPPENED...
WELL, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY NOW, YOU LITTLE RAT?
JAMIE!!
WH...??!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, MY OLD MAN STRUCK ME! I DIDN'T MIND THE STINGING LASH OF THE BLOW--IT WAS ONLY THAT HE HIT ME IN FRONT OF HER!
GET OUT OF THE ROOM, CORA--I'LL HANDLE THIS MYSELF!
JUST MAKE SURE HE WON'T EVER FORGET IT!
POP LET OUT ALL HIS PENT-UP EMOTIONS AND FRUSTRATIONS ON ME! THE BEATING DIDN'T HURT AS MUCH AS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE WEREN'T PALS ANY MORE! HE QUIT FROM SHEER EXHAUSTION...
JAMIE... JAMIE BOY, FORGIVE ME! (SOB! SOB!) FORGIVE ME, JAMIE!
THERE'S NOTHIN' TO FORGIVE, POP! I'M LEAVIN' IN THE MORNING! I DON'T WANT TO STAY IN THIS HOUSE ANY MORE--IT'S NOT MY HOME!
JAMIE, MAYBE IT'LL BE DIFFERENT SOON! MAYBE WE'LL GO OUT FISHING AND HUNTING LIKE IN THE OLD DAYS! JUST FORGIVE ME, SON!
IT'LL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN, POP!
I STARTED PACKING AFTER POP LEFT FOR WORK NEXT MORNING! THE PHONE RANG AND I WAS AFRAID TO ANSWER BECAUSE MAYBE IT WAS FOR HER...
GOSH, IT'S RINGIN' KINDA FUNNY! IT JUST KEEPS RINGIN' AND RINGIN' LIKE IT'S IMPORTANT! I BETTER ANSWER IT!
BRRRING! BRRRING! BRRRING!
I ANSWERED IT AND WAS DUMBLY SHOCKED AS A LOW VOICE CAME KNELLING OUT OF THE PHONE LIKE A CHURCH BELL TOLLING...
HELLO...HELLO! IS THIS THE CORTEZ HOME? THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT IN THE PLANT.. JOE CORTEZ ... BZZZ .. MACHINERY...BZZZ... CAUGHT...
POP! POP!

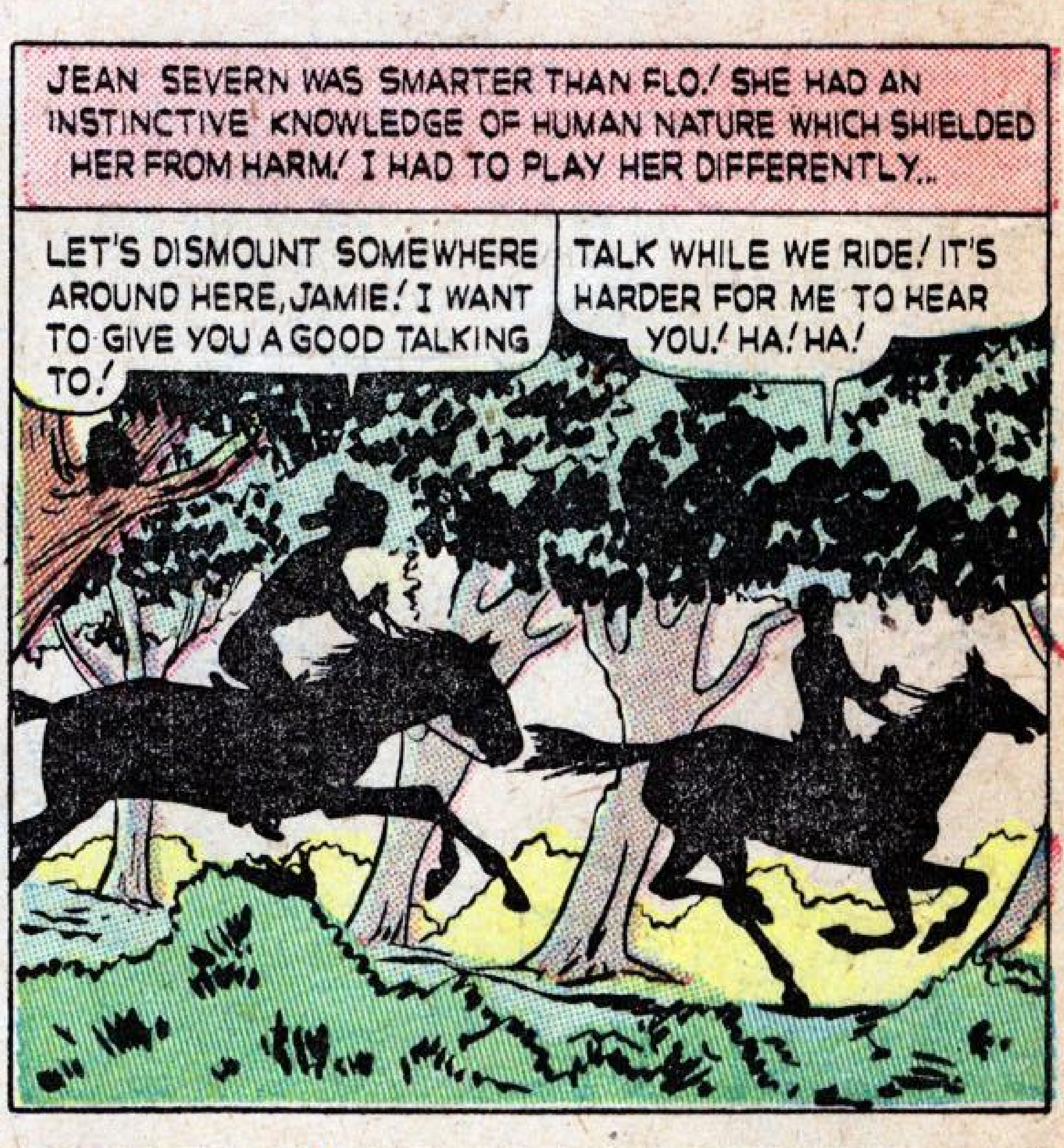

THERE WASN'T ENOUGH OF HIM LEFT TO BE BURIED! CARELESSNESS, THEY SAID... FATIGUE AND OVERWORK... SLIPPED ON THE BELT AND GOT DRAGGED INTO THE GEARS! *SHE* KILLED HIM... *SHE* DROVE HIM TO *DEATH*...
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU LIKE POISON! I DON'T WANT TO FORGET HOW MUCH I HATE YOU! I HOPE MY EYES DROP OUT AND MY HANDS WITHER IF I EVER FORGET HOW I HATE YOU AND **ALL WOMEN!**
THAT'S THE WAY I GREW UP, HATING EVERY WOMAN I EVER SAW OR MET! BESIDES JUST STAYING ALIVE, I HAD ONLY ONE OTHER MOTIVE IN LIFE... TO HURT WOMEN LIKE *SHE* HURT ME AND MY POP, AND TO HATE THEM...
HOW ABOUT IT, JAMIE? WANNA MAKE IT A THREESOME? WE EVEN GOT A SHARP-LOOKING DOLL FOR YOU!
SHARP-LOOKING, EH? WHAT DO YOU GORILLAS KNOW ABOUT GOOD-LOOKING DOLLS?
THE DAME IN THE BACK SEAT IS YOURS, CORTEZ! WANNA GO STEPPIN'?
HMMM... YEAH! I KNOW THAT TYPE! COLD AS NAILS, BUT WHEN THEY MELT THEY SPLATTER! I'LL GO ALONG... JUST TO SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES HER TO FALL IN LOVE AND START CRYING!
FLO, I WANT YOU TO MEET JAMIE CORTEZ, A PAL OF OURS!
HI, JAMIE! MAYBE WE'LL HAVE AN INTERESTING EVENING AFTER ALL!
IT'S UP TO YOU, BABY!
WE PARKED AT A ROADHOUSE OUT ON 28 W AND I LET HER TALK! SHE'D BEEN HURT PLENTY AND WANTED SOMEBODY TO SPILL IT TO, SO I LISTENED...
WHEW! I'VE BEEN GABBING ALL EVENING! LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU, JAMIE!
I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL YOUR EVENING, HONEY! I KNOW IT FEELS GOOD TO LET YOUR TROUBLES OUT ON A GOOD LISTENER, AND I'M IT, BABY! KEEP TALKING... I LOVE IT!
I KNEW HER NEXT LINE LIKE A BOOK AND SAID IT TO MYSELF BEFORE SHE OPENED HER MOUTH! SHE WAS FALLING...
I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO SOUND CORNY, JAMIE, BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MEN I'VE KNOWN! USUALLY I SIT AROUND GETTING MY EAR BENT WITH A LOT OF SMALL TALK! I LIKE YOU, JAMIE!
LOOK, HONEY, THERE'S NOTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT ME! I'VE BEEN IN SPOTS WHERE TROUBLE WAS BUSTING TO GET OUT OF ME... AND I HAD NO ONE TO TALK TO!
I PLAYED THE NEXT LINE STRAIGHT...
TALK TO ME, JAMIE! I'LL ALWAYS BE WAITING AND LISTENING!
THANKS, FLO! I'M GLAD WE MET BECAUSE ...WELL, BECAUSE WE'RE A LOT ALIKE! I WANT TO SEE YOU AS OFTEN AS I CAN!

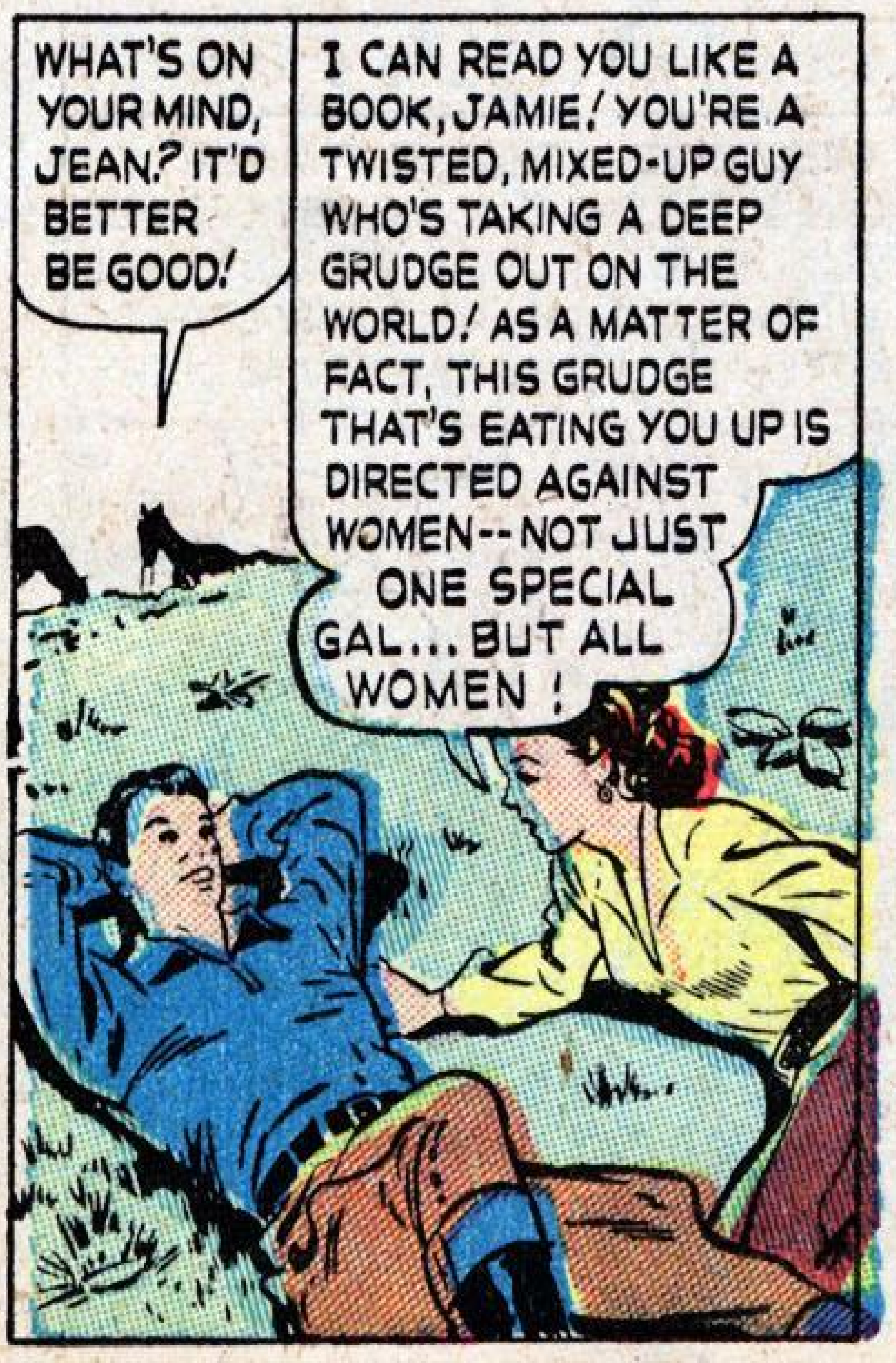

I GRINNED INSIDE AS SHE BEGAN TO TOPPLE! IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WE DID THE TOWN IN STYLE, AND THEN IT HAPPENED..
HONEY, THESE WEEKS HAVE BEEN THE MOST WONDERFUL IN MY LIFE--I TREASURE EVERY SECOND WE SPEND TOGETHER! I DON'T EVER WANT TO LOSE THE MEMORY OF THESE DAYS, JAMIE! HELP ME KEEP THEM!
I'LL KEEP THEM AS LONG AS I LIVE... AS LONG AS WE'RE BOTH TOGETHER, FLO!

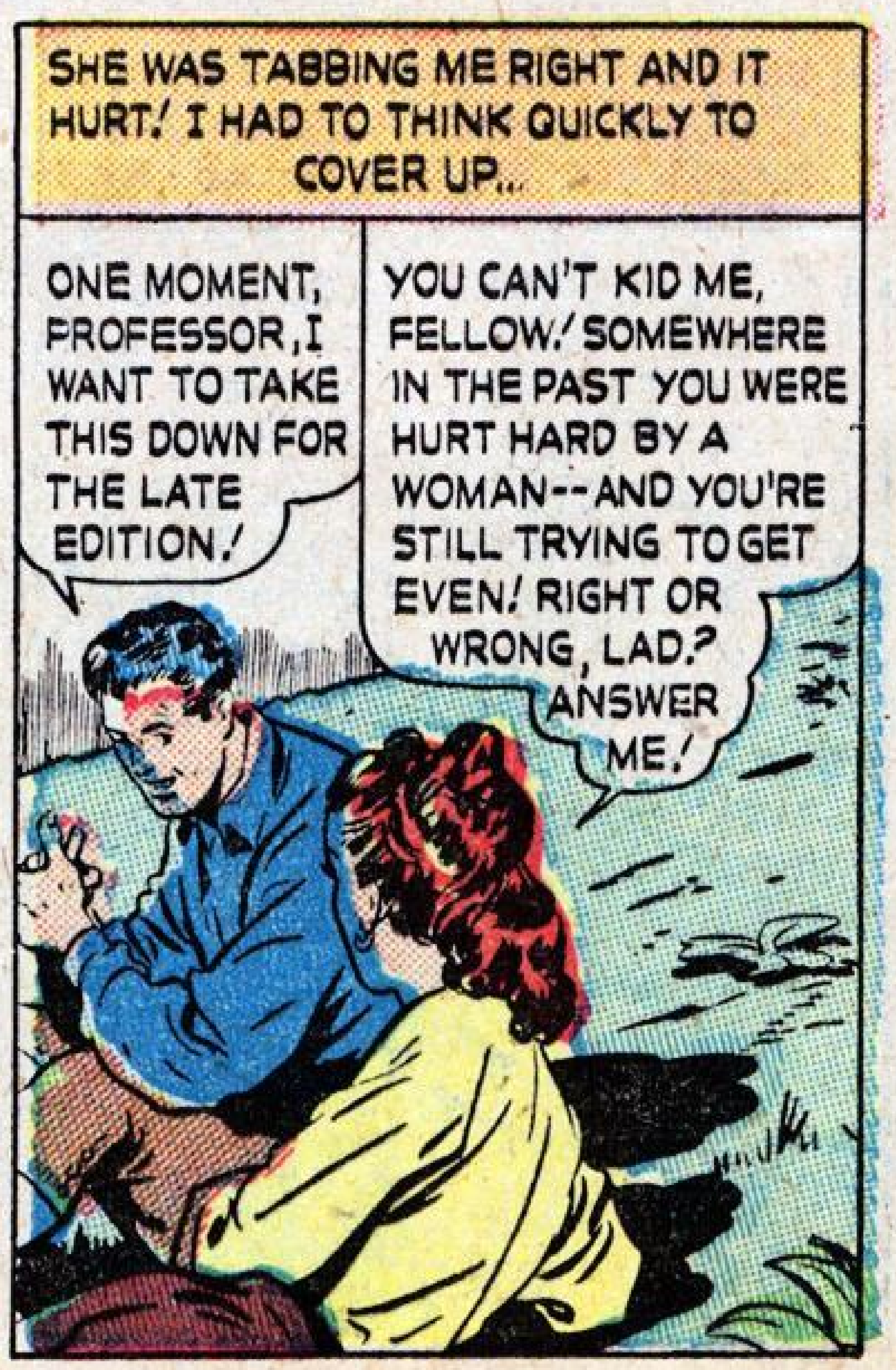

JAMIE, I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME, BUT IT HAS! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, DARLING... MADLY IN LOVE WITH YOU! LET'S GET MARRIED, JAMIE! JAMIE! DO YOU LOVE ME?
DO I LOVE YOU?

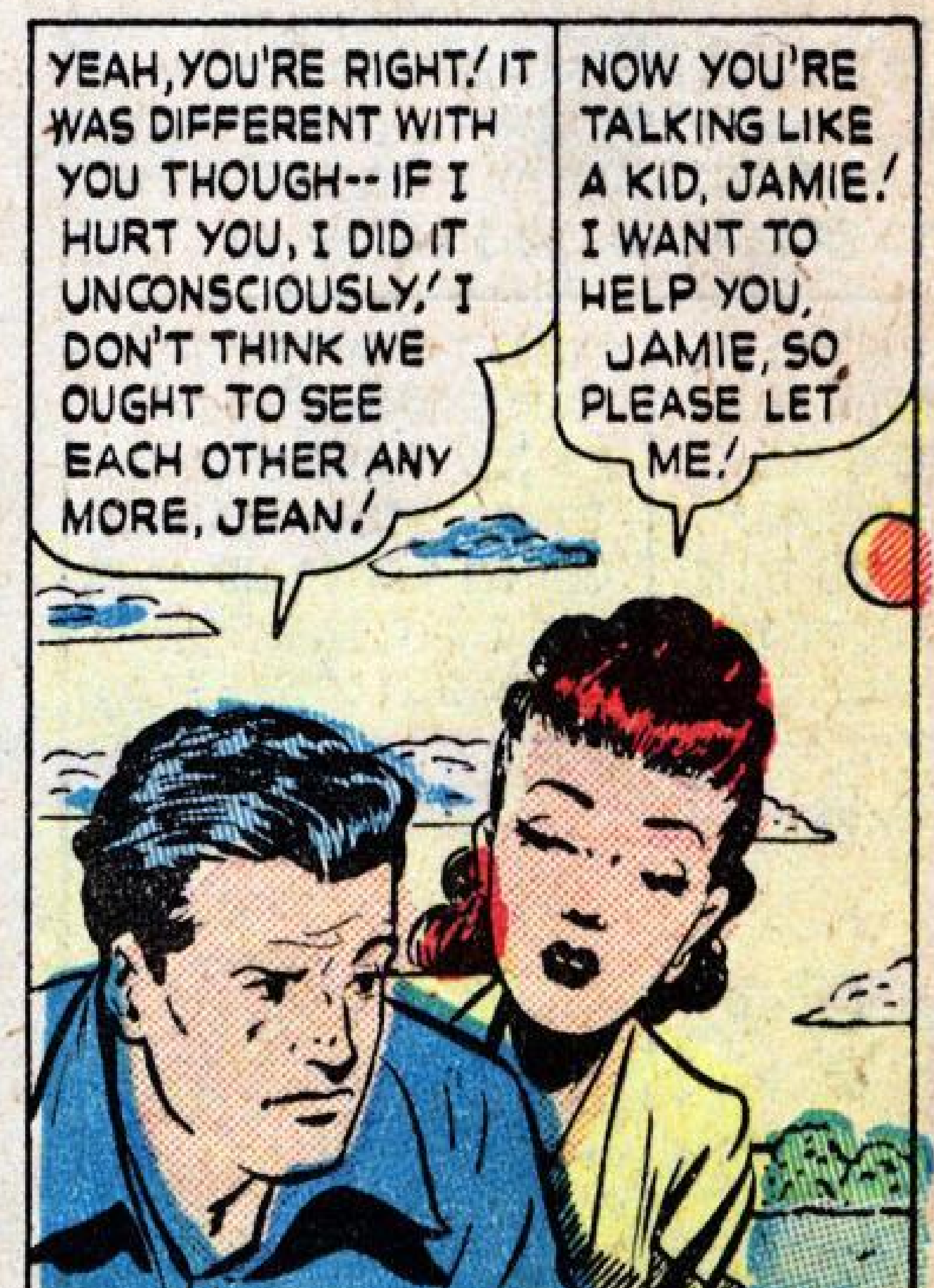

THE ACT WAS OVER! I WATCHED THE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE TURN TO HORRIFIED SHOCK! I THOUGHT OF CORA AND TOOK MY HATE OUT ON FLO!
LOVE YOU? LISTEN, BABY! I HATE YOU! I LIVED IN TORTURE THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, JUST WAITING TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I HATE YOU! IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION TO YOU, I HATE ALL WOMEN !!! DO I LOVE YOU? HAW-WOTTA LAUGH! NOW GET OUT AND WALK HOME... I'M SICK OF YOU!

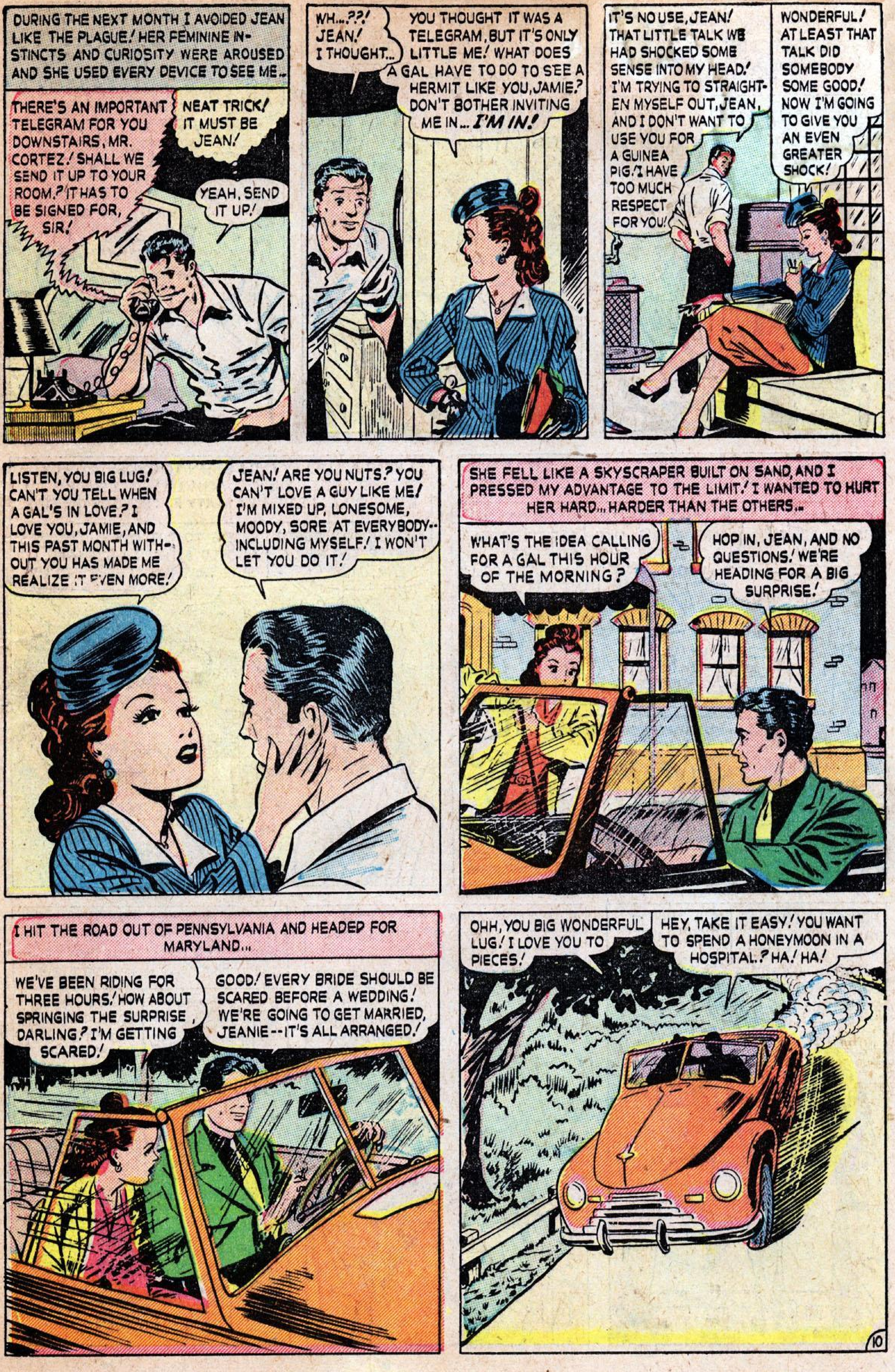

MY TIMING WAS PERFECT! JEAN SEVERN SHOWED UP NEAR THE CAR JUST AS I HAD PLANNED..
HI, GORGEOUS! DID I KEEP YOU WAITING LONG?
FOR YOU I'D WAIT A LIFETIME, JAMIE!
JAMIE! NO...NO! (SOB... SOB!) JAMIE, YOU CAN'T!

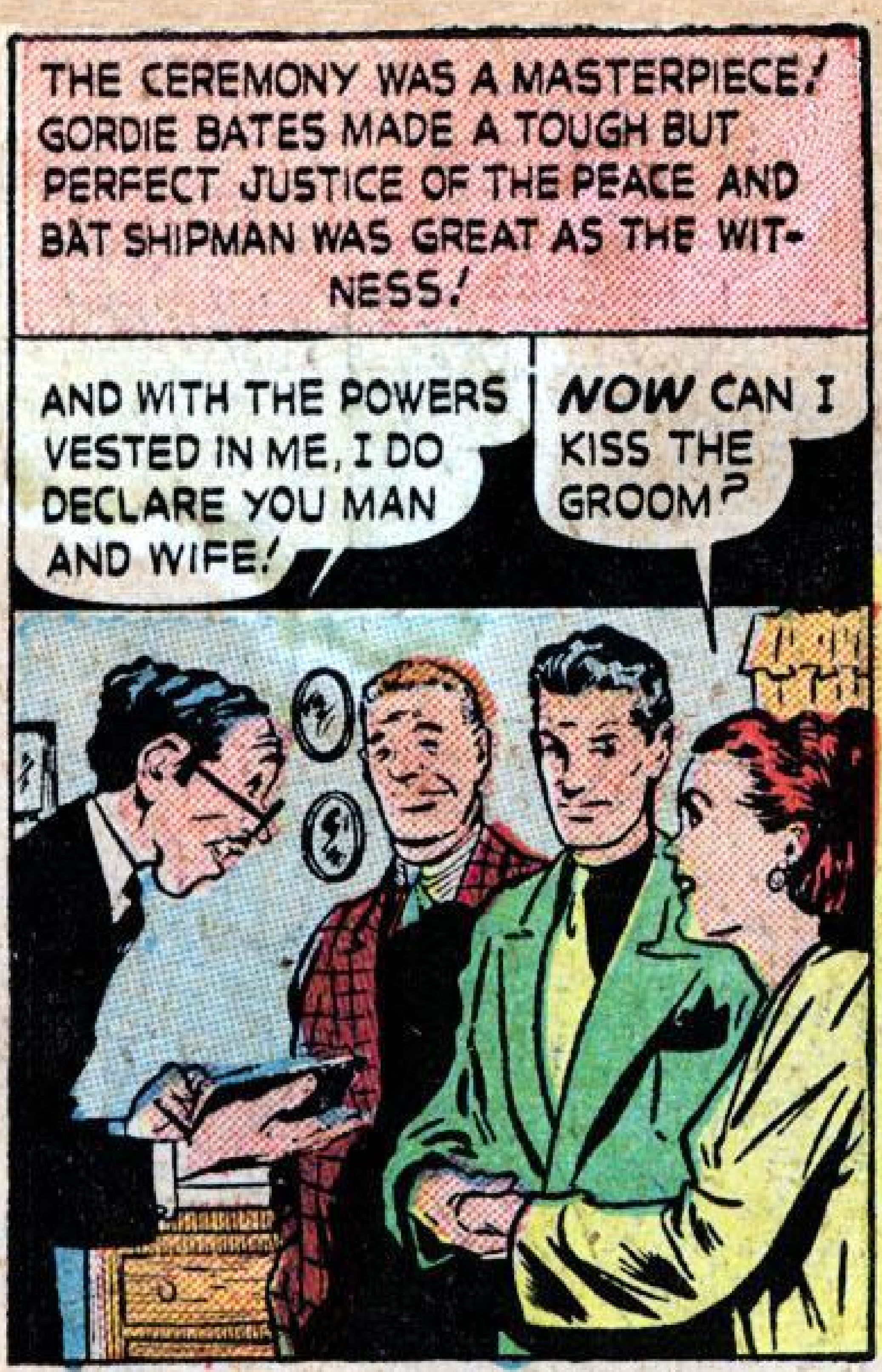

JEAN SEVERN WAS SMARTER THAN FLO! SHE HAD AN INSTINCTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN NATURE WHICH SHIELDED HER FROM HARM! I HAD TO PLAY HER DIFFERENTLY..
LET'S DISMOUNT SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE, JAMIE! I WANT TO GIVE YOU A GOOD TALKING TO!
TALK WHILE WE RIDE! IT'S HARDER FOR ME TO HEAR YOU! HA! HA!

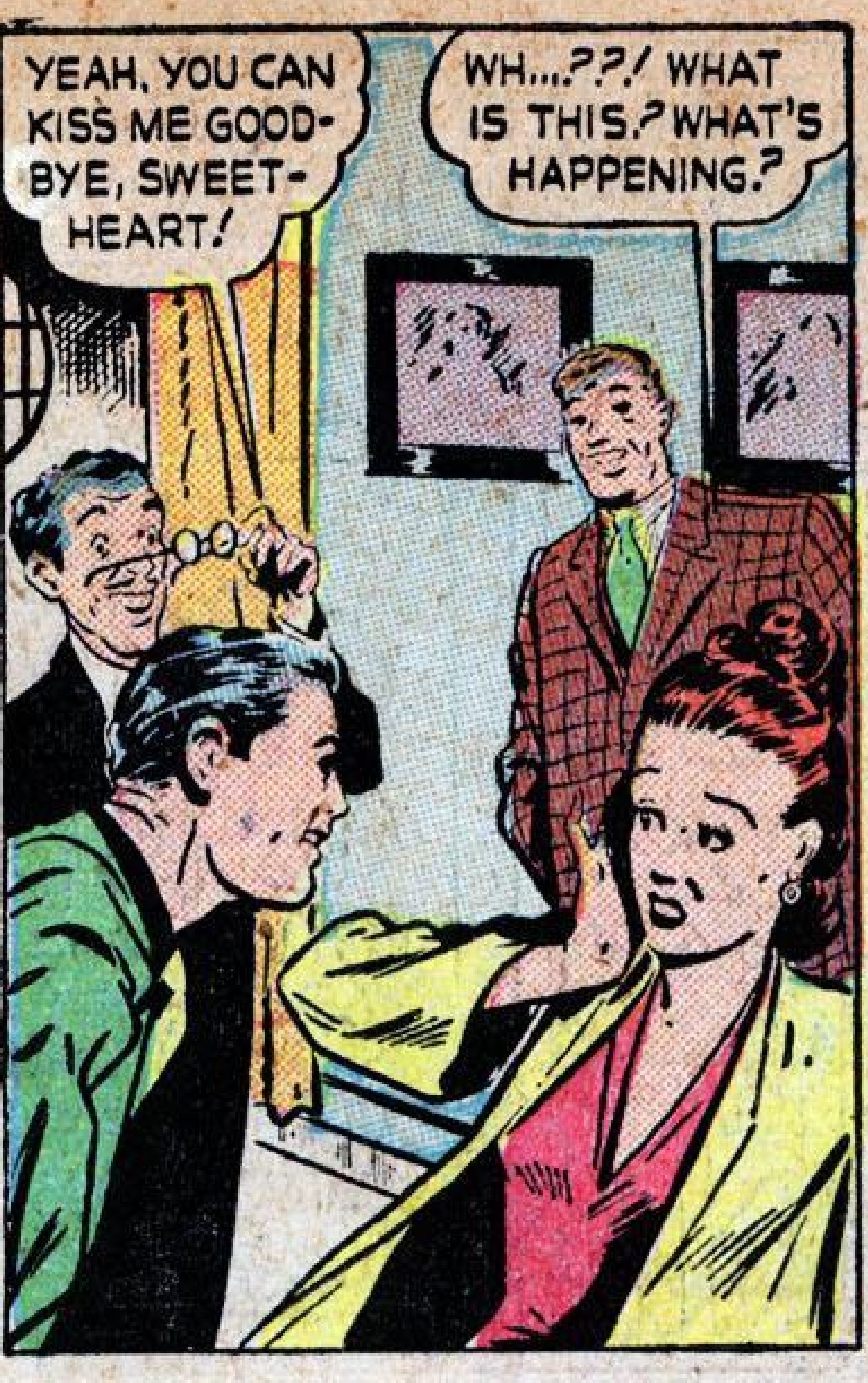

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, JEAN? IT'D BETTER BE GOOD!
I CAN READ YOU LIKE A BOOK, JAMIE! YOU'RE A TWISTED, MIXED-UP GUY WHO'S TAKING A DEEP GRUDGE OUT ON THE WORLD! AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS GRUDGE THAT'S EATING YOU UP IS DIRECTED AGAINST WOMEN-- NOT JUST ONE SPECIAL GAL... BUT ALL WOMEN !

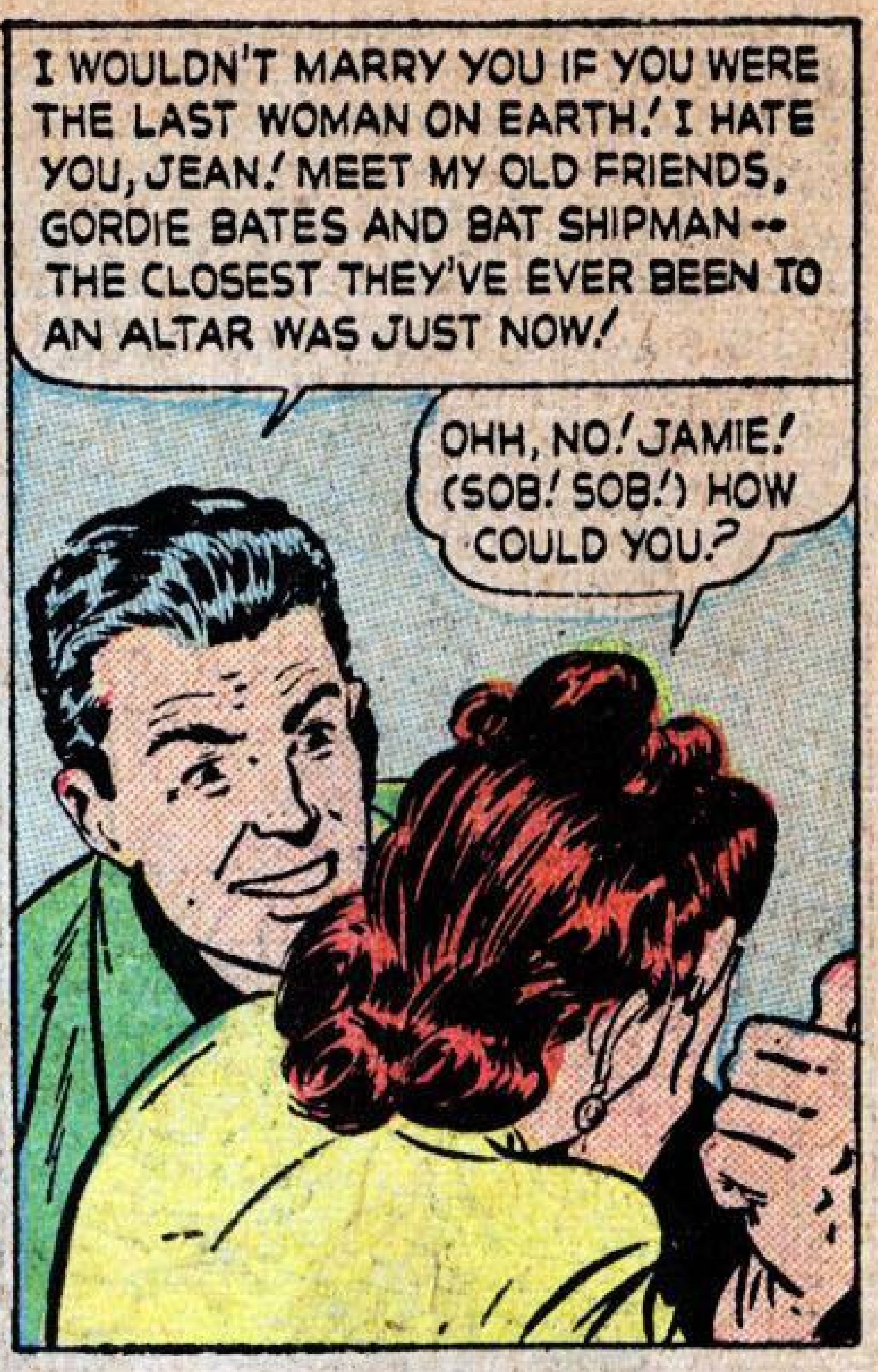

SHE WAS TABBING ME RIGHT AND IT HURT! I HAD TO THINK QUICKLY TO COVER UP..
ONE MOMENT, PROFESSOR, I WANT TO TAKE THIS DOWN FOR THE LATE EDITION!
YOU CAN'T KID ME, FELLOW! SOMEWHERE IN THE PAST YOU WERE HURT HARD BY A WOMAN--AND YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO GET EVEN! RIGHT OR WRONG, LAD? ANSWER ME!

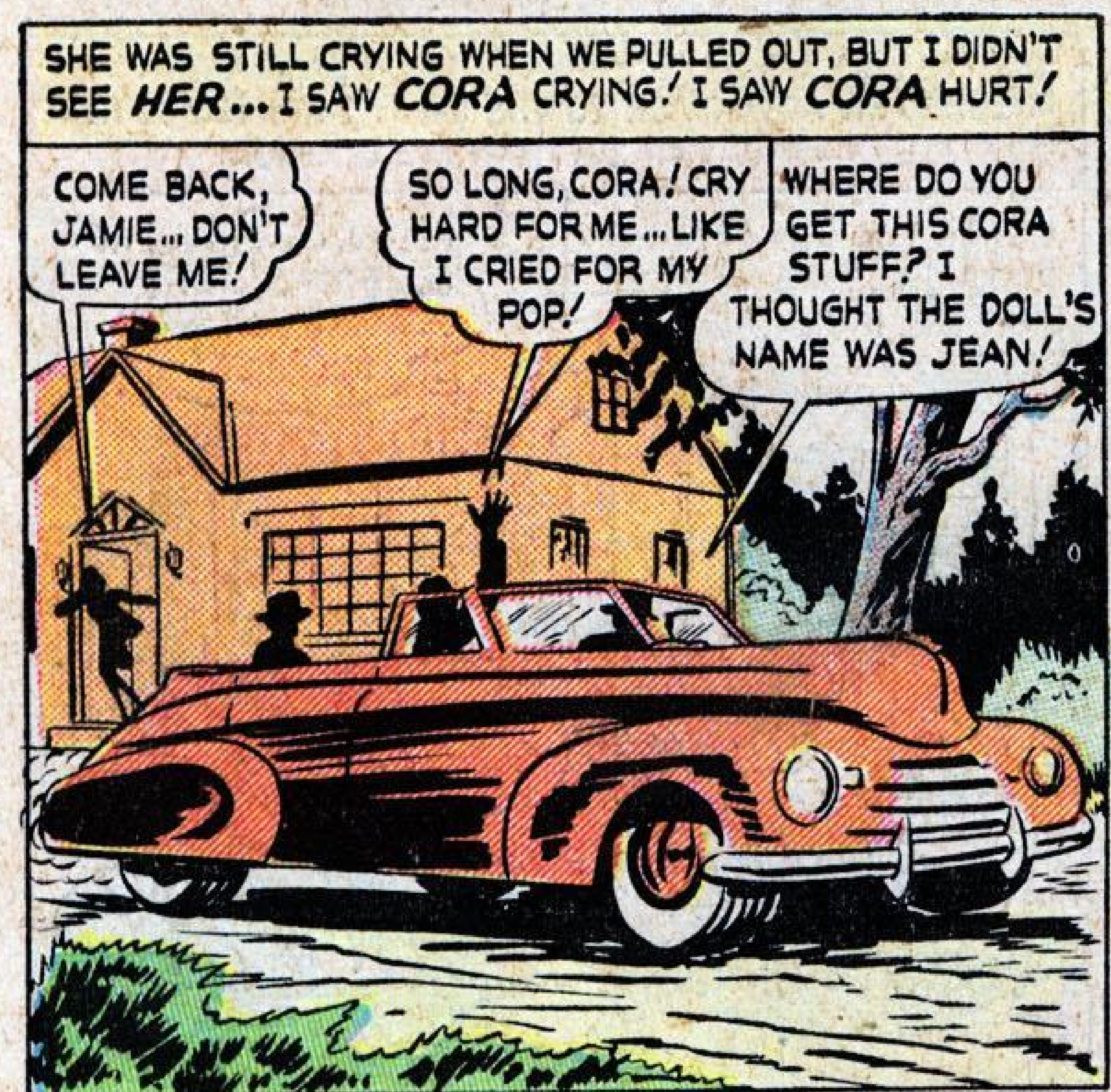

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! IT WAS DIFFERENT WITH YOU THOUGH-- IF I HURT YOU, I DID IT UNCONSCIOUSLY! I DON'T THINK WE OUGHT TO SEE EACH OTHER ANY MORE, JEAN!
NOW YOU'RE TALKING LIKE A KID, JAMIE! I WANT TO HELP YOU, JAMIE, SO PLEASE LET ME!

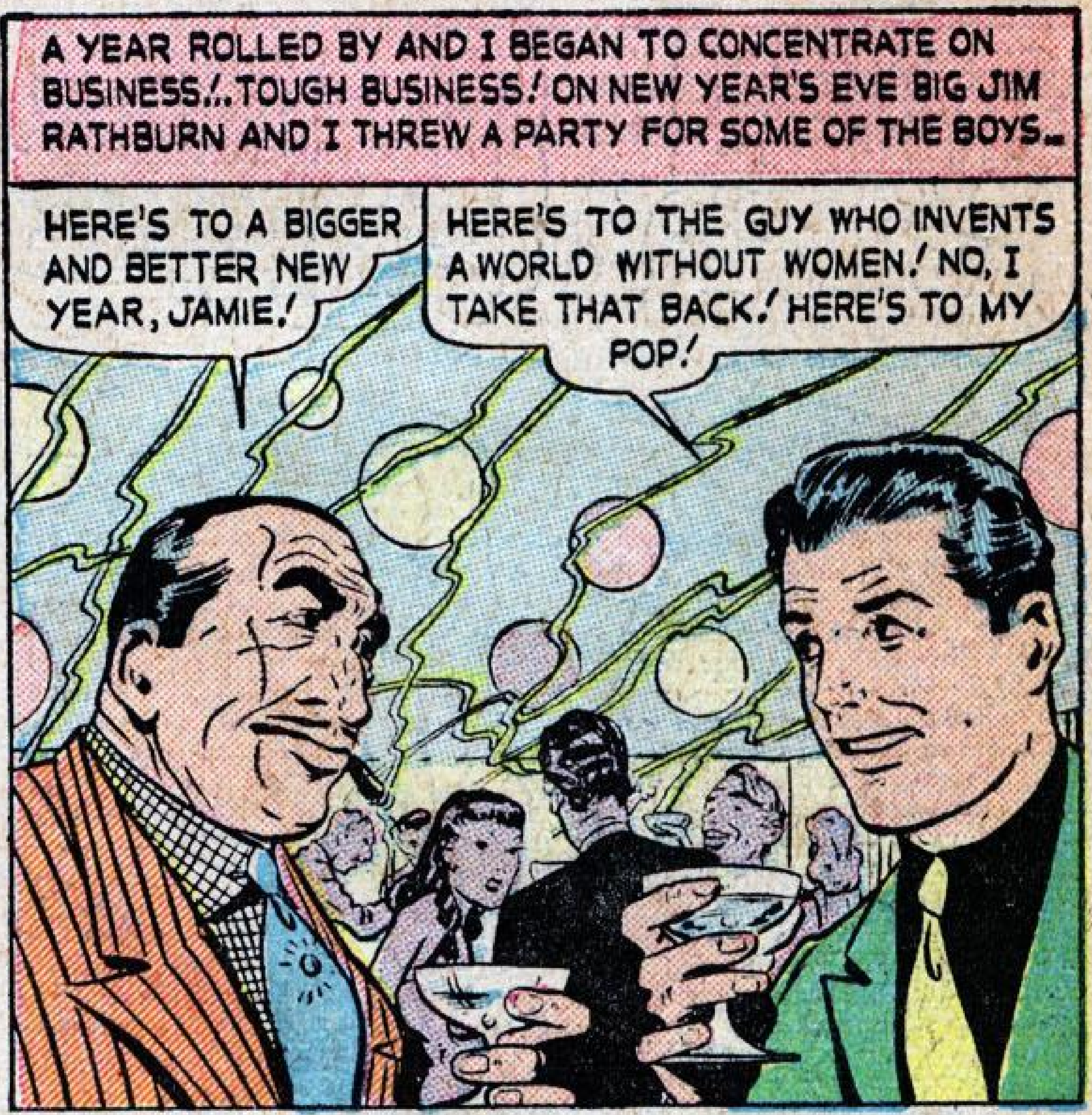

DURING THE NEXT MONTH I AVOIDED JEAN LIKE THE PLAGUE! HER FEMININE INSTINCTS AND CURIOSITY WERE AROUSED AND SHE USED EVERY DEVICE TO SEE ME..
THERE'S AN IMPORTANT TELEGRAM FOR YOU DOWNSTAIRS, MR. CORTEZ! SHALL WE SEND IT UP TO YOUR ROOM? IT HAS TO BE SIGNED FOR, SIR!
NEAT TRICK! IT MUST BE JEAN!
YEAH, SEND IT UP!
WH...??! JEAN! I THOUGHT...
YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A TELEGRAM, BUT IT'S ONLY LITTLE ME! WHAT DOES A GAL HAVE TO DO TO SEE A HERMIT LIKE YOU, JAMIE? DON'T BOTHER INVITING ME IN... I'M IN!
IT'S NO USE, JEAN! THAT LITTLE TALK WE HAD SHOCKED SOME SENSE INTO MY HEAD! I'M TRYING TO STRAIGHTEN MYSELF OUT, JEAN, AND I DON'T WANT TO USE YOU FOR A GUINEA PIG! I HAVE TOO MUCH RESPECT FOR YOU!
WONDERFUL! AT LEAST THAT TALK DID SOMEBODY SOME GOOD! NOW I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU AN EVEN GREATER SHOCK!
LISTEN, YOU BIG LUG! CAN'T YOU TELL WHEN A GAL'S IN LOVE? I LOVE YOU, JAMIE, AND THIS PAST MONTH WITHOUT YOU HAS MADE ME REALIZE IT EVEN MORE!
JEAN! ARE YOU NUTS? YOU CAN'T LOVE A GUY LIKE ME! I'M MIXED UP, LONESOME, MOODY, SORE AT EVERYBODY-- INCLUDING MYSELF! I WON'T LET YOU DO IT!
SHE FELL LIKE A SKYSCRAPER BUILT ON SAND, AND I PRESSED MY ADVANTAGE TO THE LIMIT! I WANTED TO HURT HER HARD... HARDER THAN THE OTHERS..
WHAT'S THE IDEA CALLING FOR A GAL THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING?
HOP IN, JEAN, AND NO QUESTIONS! WE'RE HEADING FOR A BIG SURPRISE!
I HIT THE ROAD OUT OF PENNSYLVANIA AND HEADED FOR MARYLAND...
WE'VE BEEN RIDING FOR THREE HOURS! HOW ABOUT SPRINGING THE SURPRISE, DARLING? I'M GETTING SCARED!
GOOD! EVERY BRIDE SHOULD BE SCARED BEFORE A WEDDING! WE'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED, JEANIE -- IT'S ALL ARRANGED!
OHH, YOU BIG WONDERFUL LUG! I LOVE YOU TO PIECES!
HEY, TAKE IT EASY! YOU WANT TO SPEND A HONEYMOON IN A HOSPITAL? HA! HA!

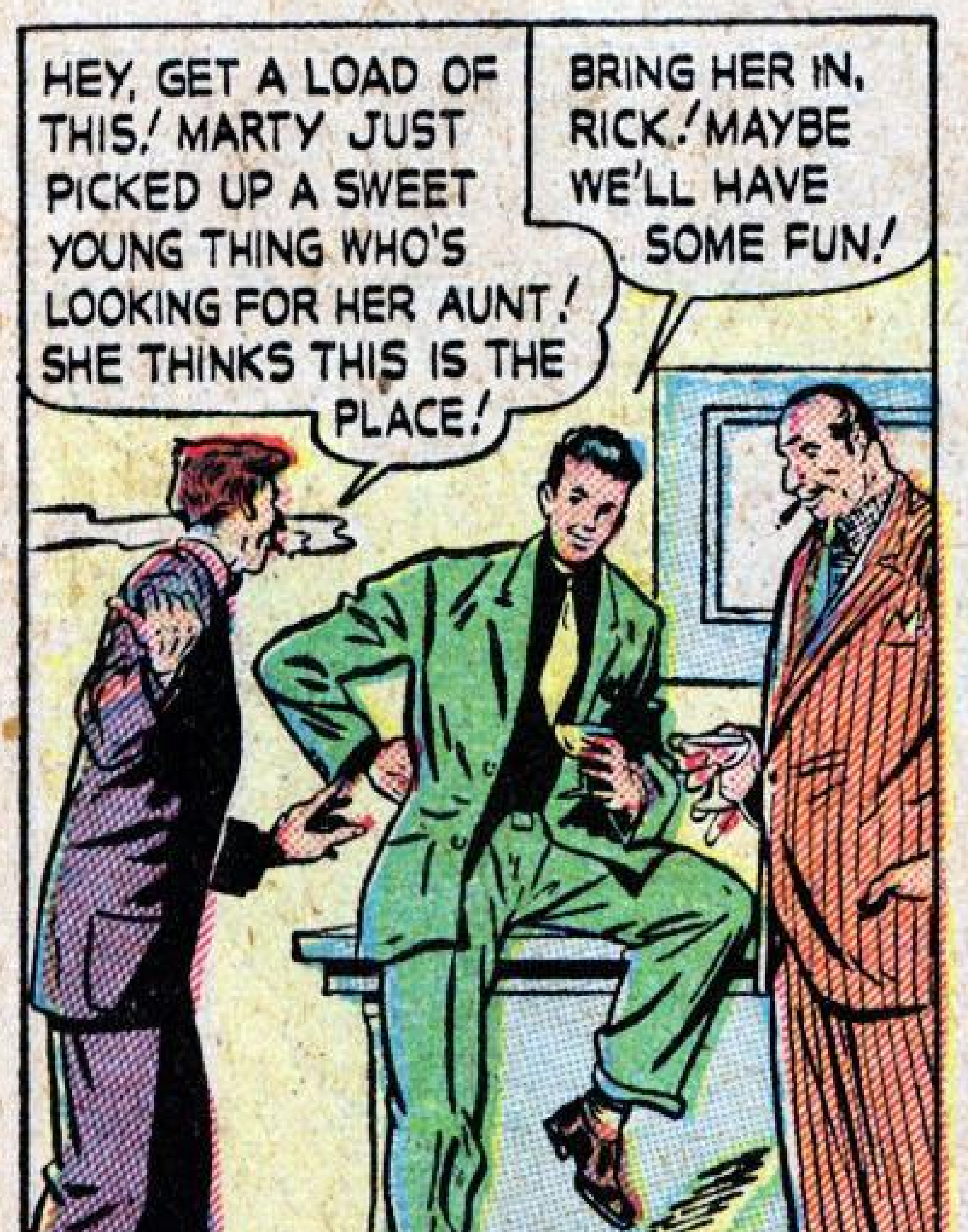

THE CEREMONY WAS A MASTERPIECE! GORDIE BATES MADE A TOUGH BUT PERFECT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND BAT SHIPMAN WAS GREAT AS THE WITNESS!
AND WITH THE POWERS VESTED IN ME, I DO DECLARE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
NOW CAN I KISS THE GROOM?

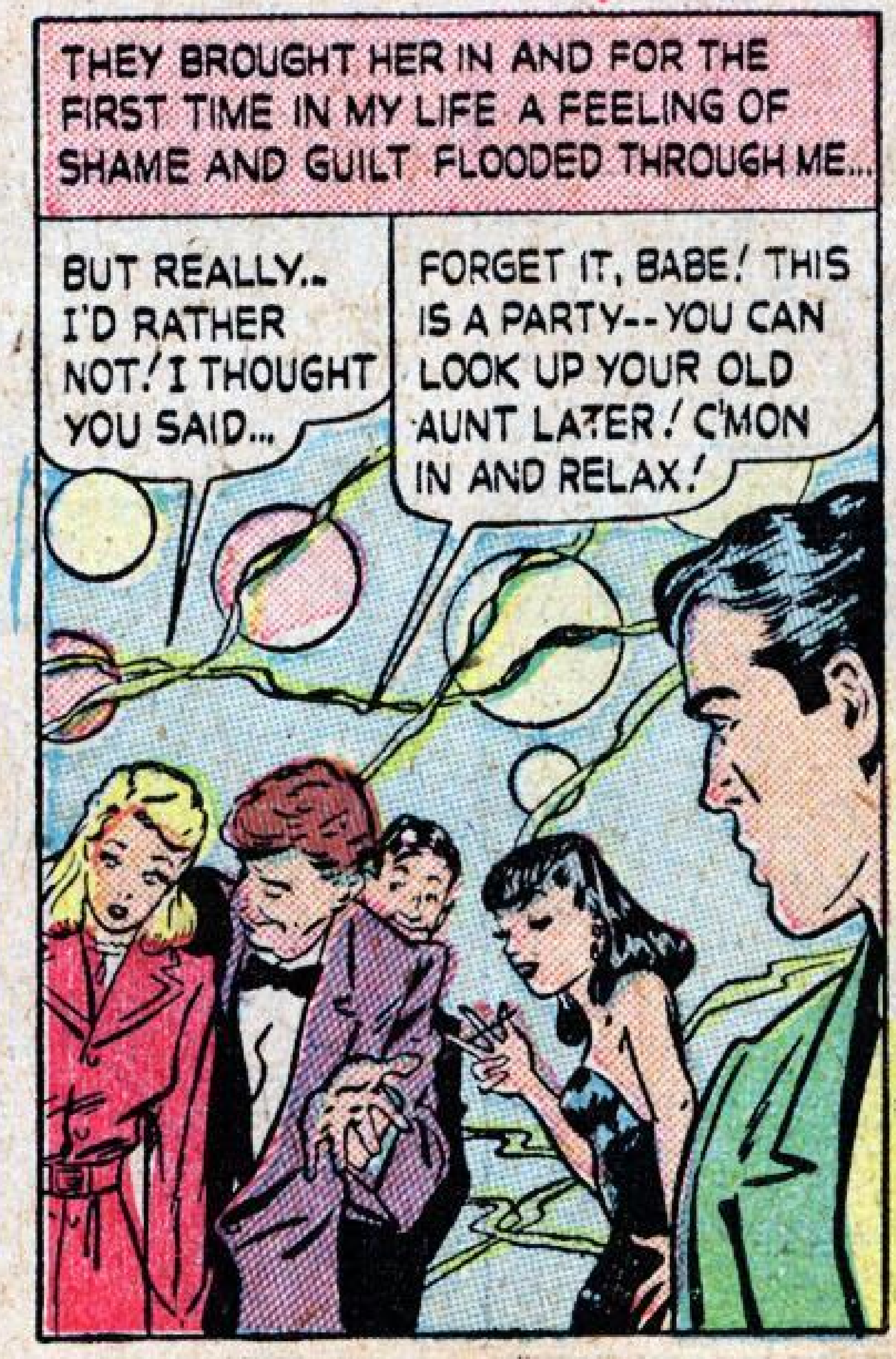

YEAH, YOU CAN KISS ME GOOD-BYE, SWEETHEART!
WH....??! WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

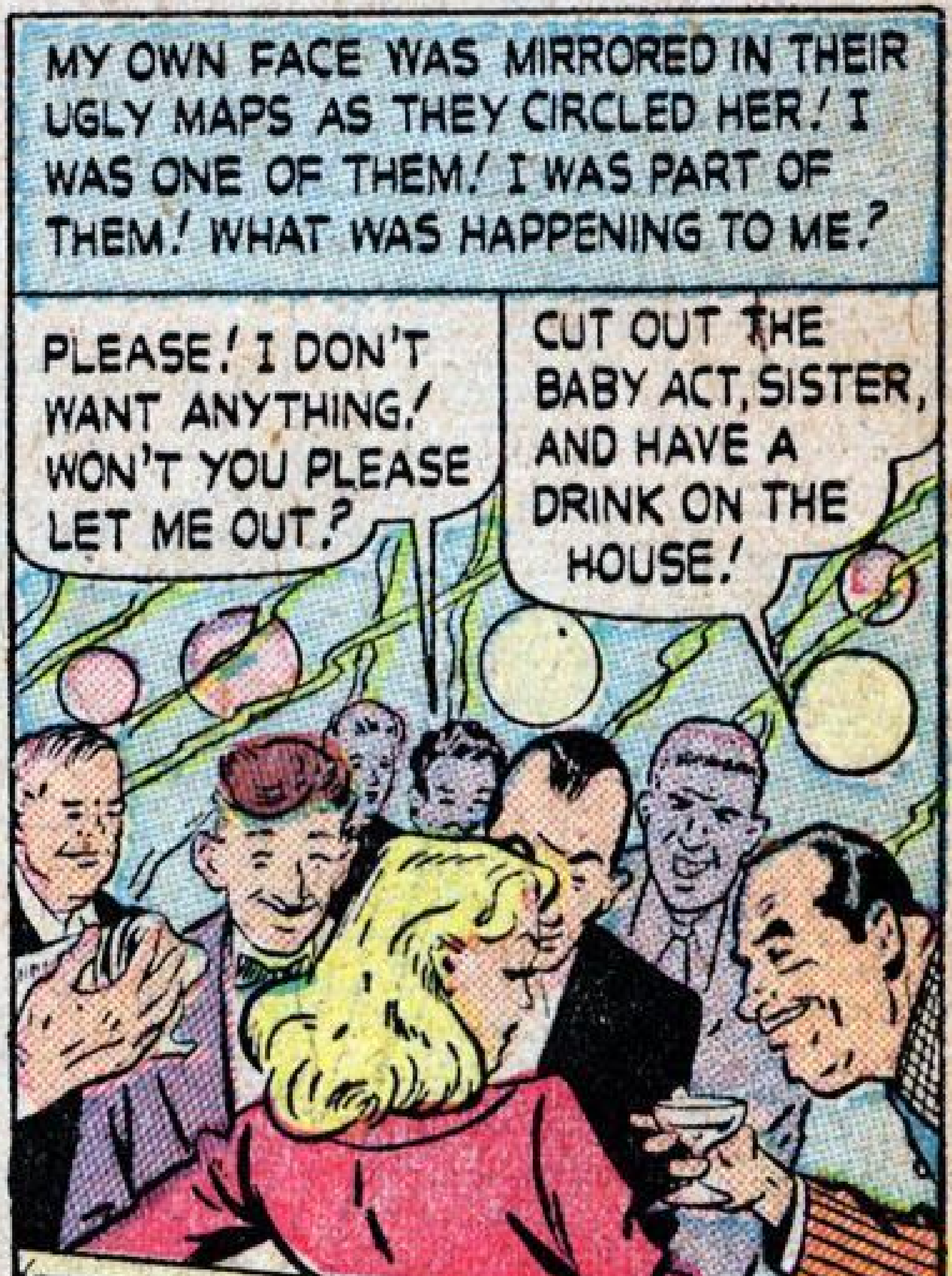

I WOULDN'T MARRY YOU IF YOU WERE THE LAST WOMAN ON EARTH! I HATE YOU, JEAN! MEET MY OLD FRIENDS, GORDIE BATES AND BAT SHIPMAN -- THE CLOSEST THEY'VE EVER BEEN TO AN ALTAR WAS JUST NOW!
OHH, NO! JAMIE! (SOB! SOB!) HOW COULD YOU?

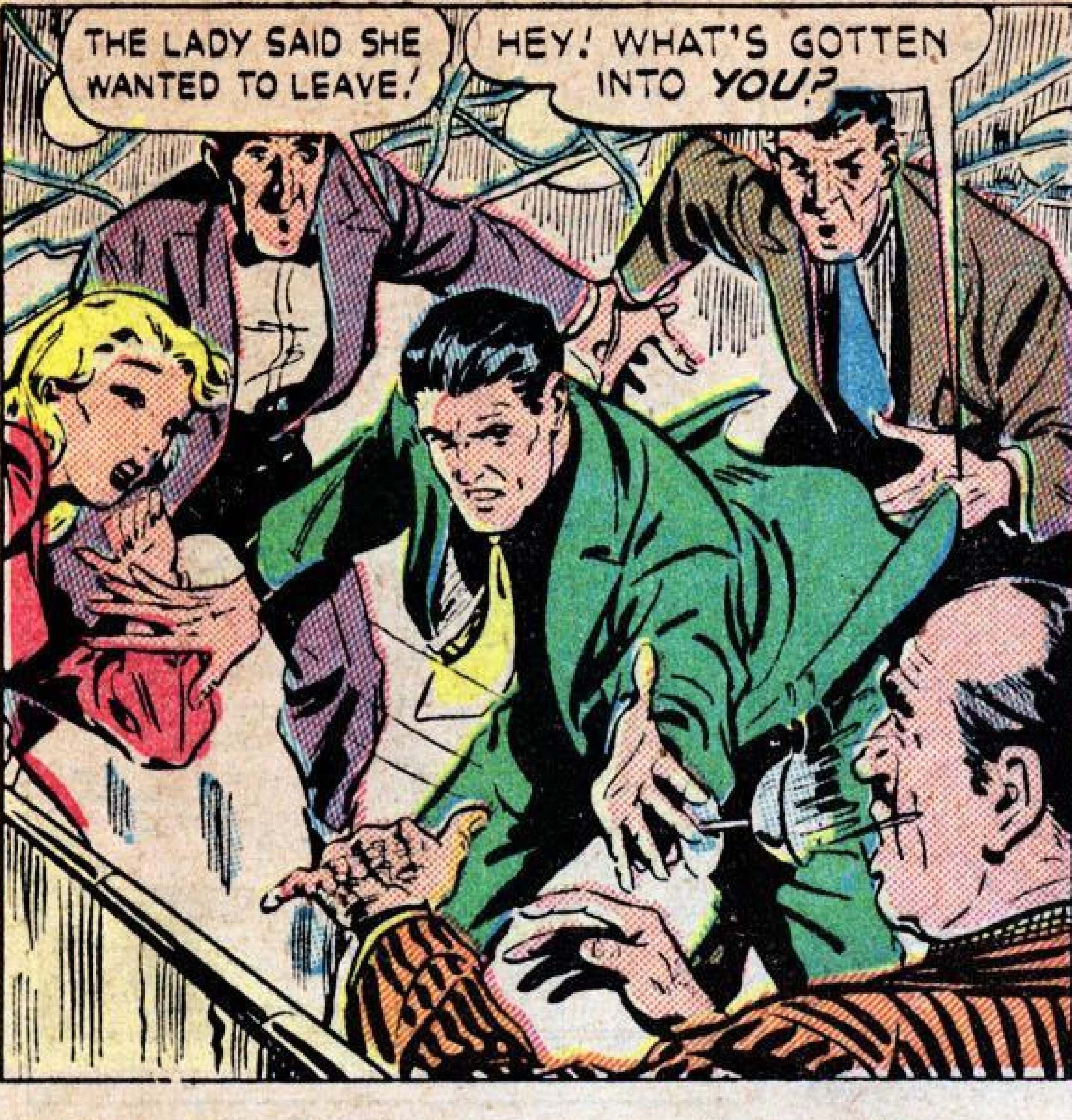

SHE WAS STILL CRYING WHEN WE PULLED OUT, BUT I DIDN'T SEE *HER*... I SAW *CORA* CRYING! I SAW *CORA* HURT!
COME BACK, JAMIE... DON'T LEAVE ME!
SO LONG, CORA! CRY HARD FOR ME... LIKE I CRIED FOR MY POP!
WHERE DO YOU GET THIS CORA STUFF? I THOUGHT THE DOLL'S NAME WAS JEAN!

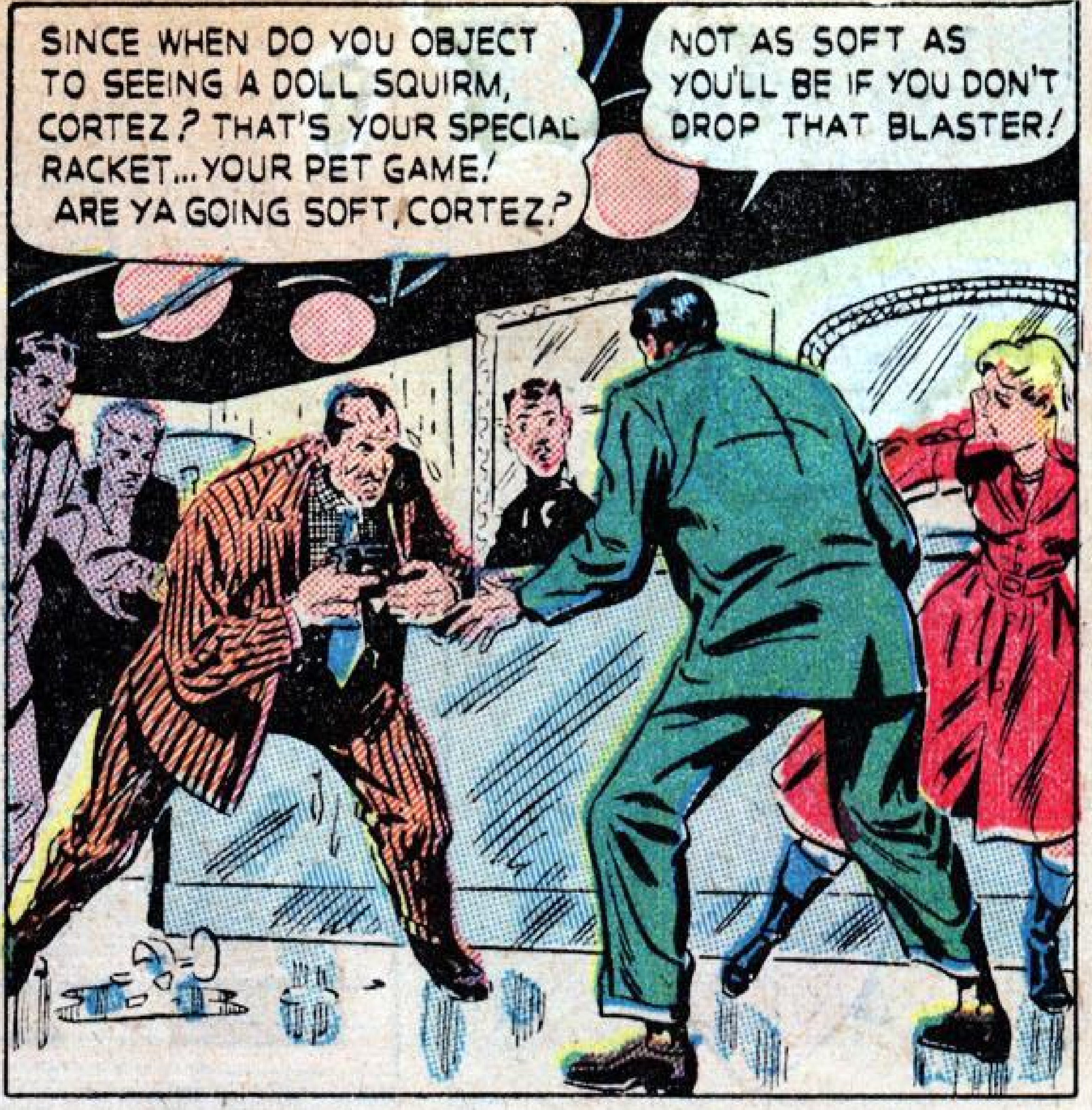

A YEAR ROLLED BY AND I BEGAN TO CONCENTRATE ON BUSINESS!.. TOUGH BUSINESS! ON NEW YEAR'S EVE BIG JIM RATHBURN AND I THREW A PARTY FOR SOME OF THE BOYS..
HERE'S TO A BIGGER AND BETTER NEW YEAR, JAMIE!
HERE'S TO THE GUY WHO INVENTS A WORLD WITHOUT WOMEN! NO, I TAKE THAT BACK! HERE'S TO MY POP!

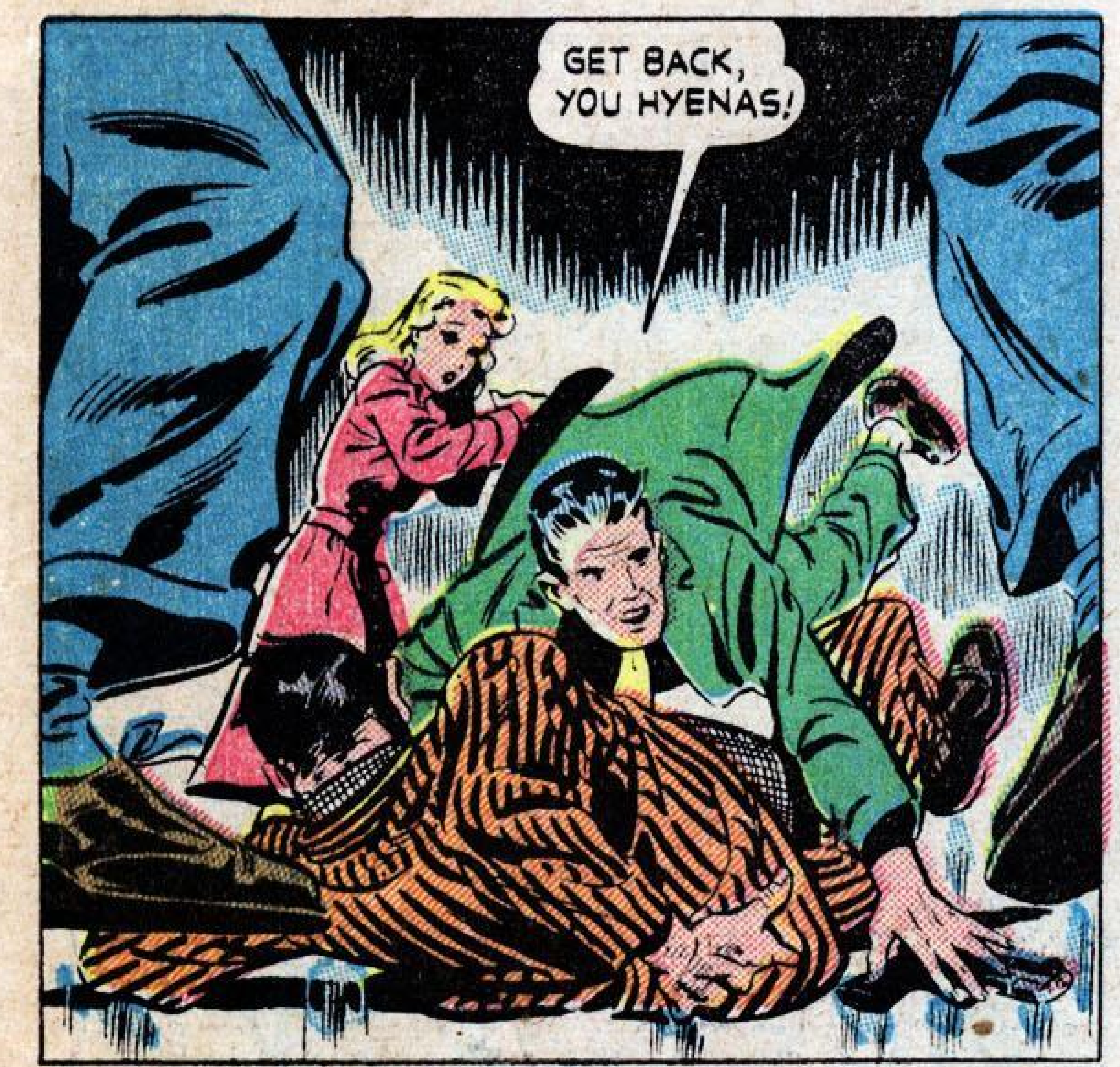

HEY, GET A LOAD OF THIS! MARTY JUST PICKED UP A SWEET YOUNG THING WHO'S LOOKING FOR HER AUNT! SHE THINKS THIS IS THE PLACE!
BRING HER IN, RICK! MAYBE WE'LL HAVE SOME FUN!

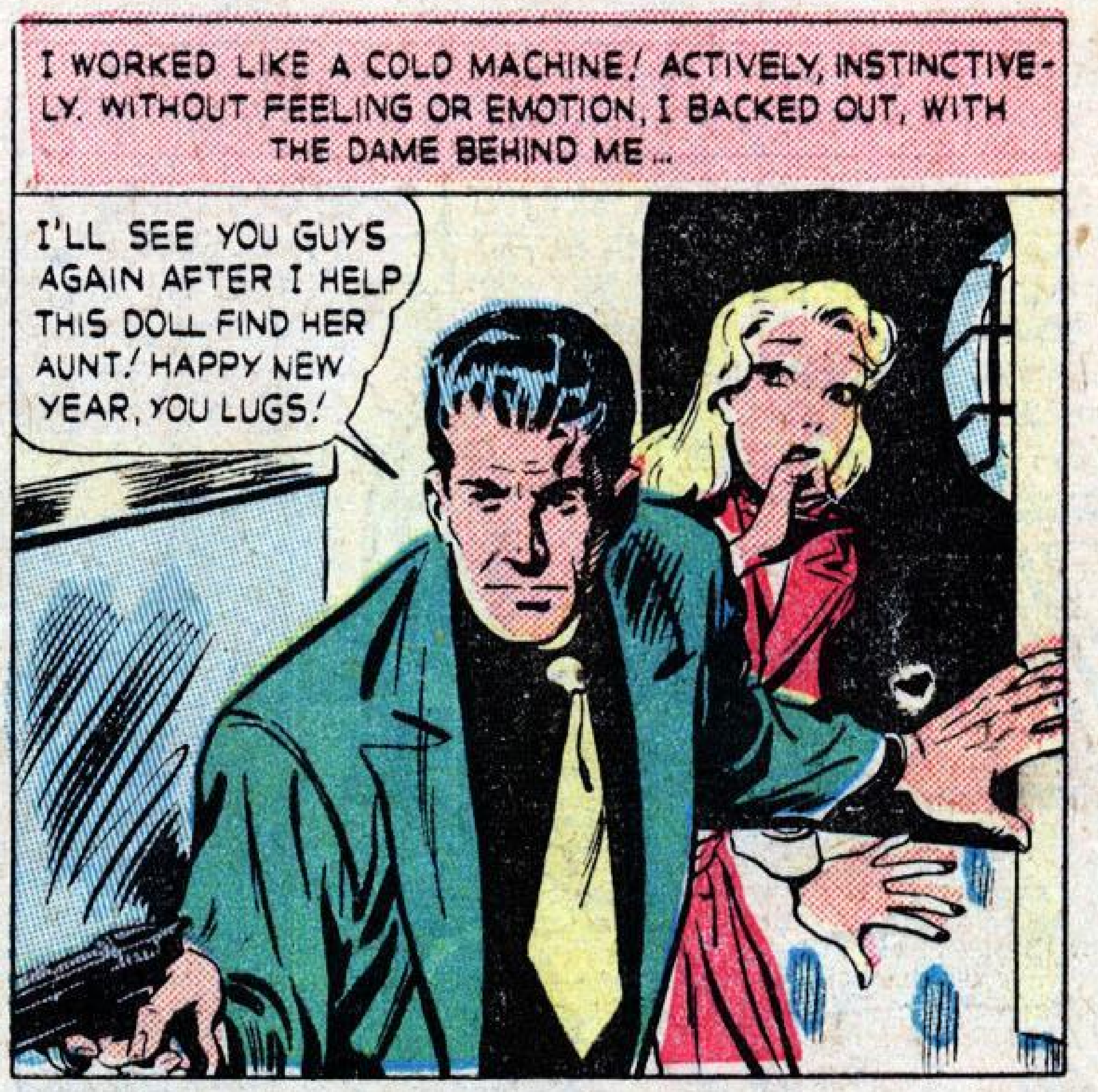

THEY BROUGHT HER IN AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE A FEELING OF SHAME AND GUILT FLOODED THROUGH ME...
BUT REALLY.. I'D RATHER NOT! I THOUGHT YOU SAID...
FORGET IT, BABE! THIS IS A PARTY-- YOU CAN LOOK UP YOUR OLD AUNT LATER! C'MON IN AND RELAX!

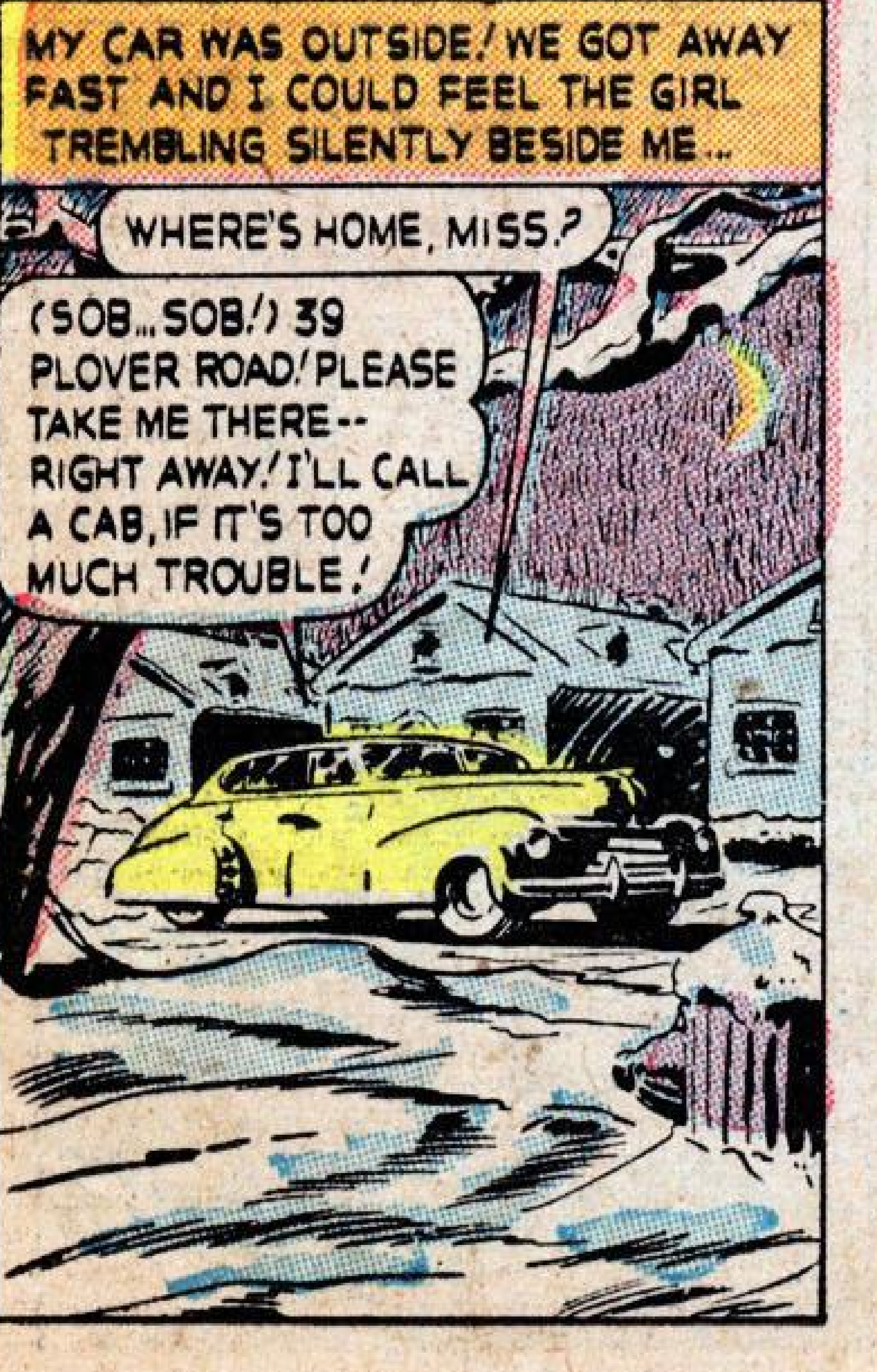

MY OWN FACE WAS MIRRORED IN THEIR UGLY MAPS AS THEY CIRCLED HER! I WAS ONE OF THEM! I WAS PART OF THEM! WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO ME?
PLEASE! I DON'T WANT ANYTHING! WON'T YOU PLEASE LET ME OUT?
CUT OUT THE BABY ACT, SISTER, AND HAVE A DRINK ON THE HOUSE!

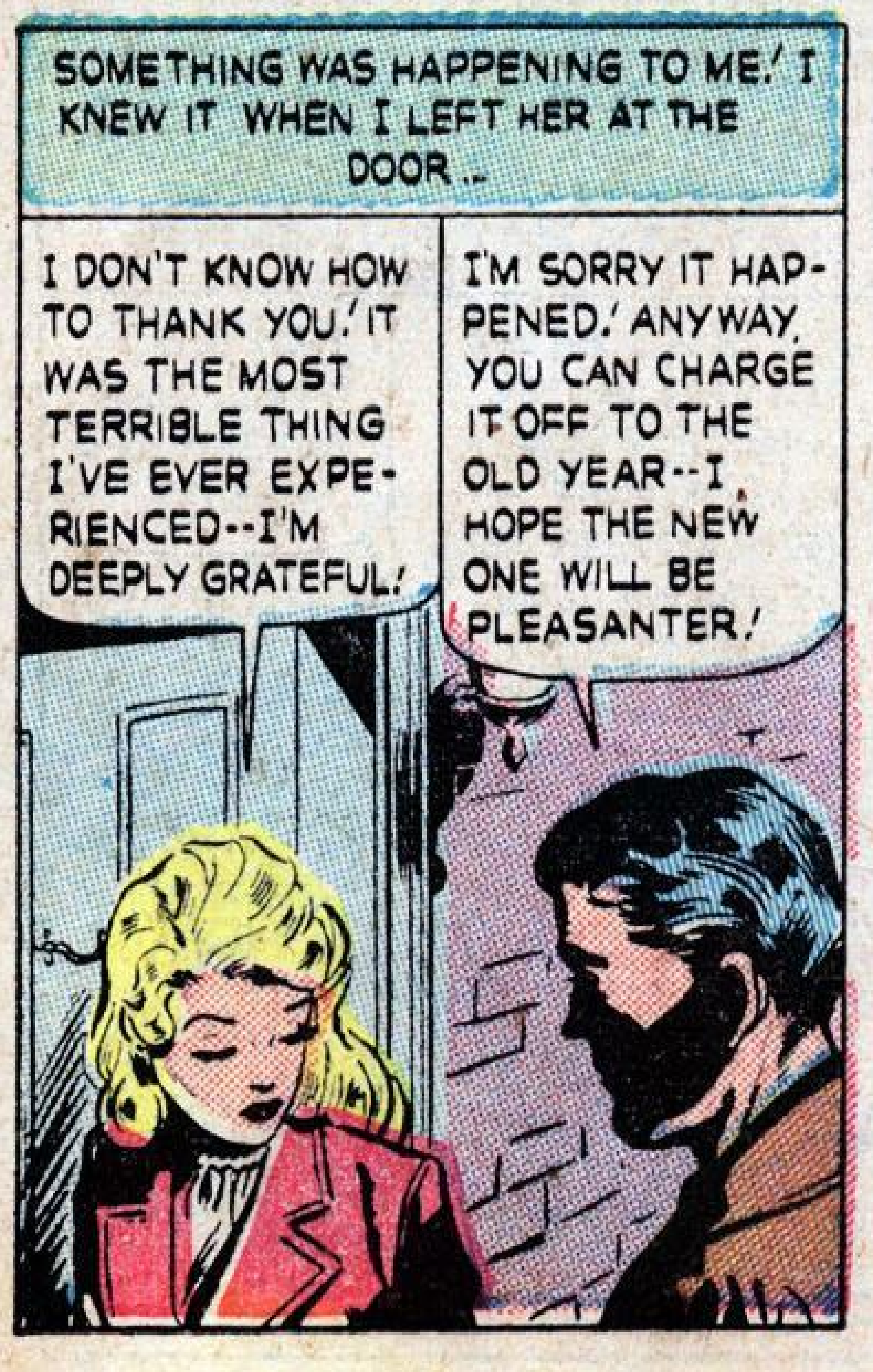

THE LADY SAID SHE WANTED TO LEAVE!
HEY! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO *YOU?*

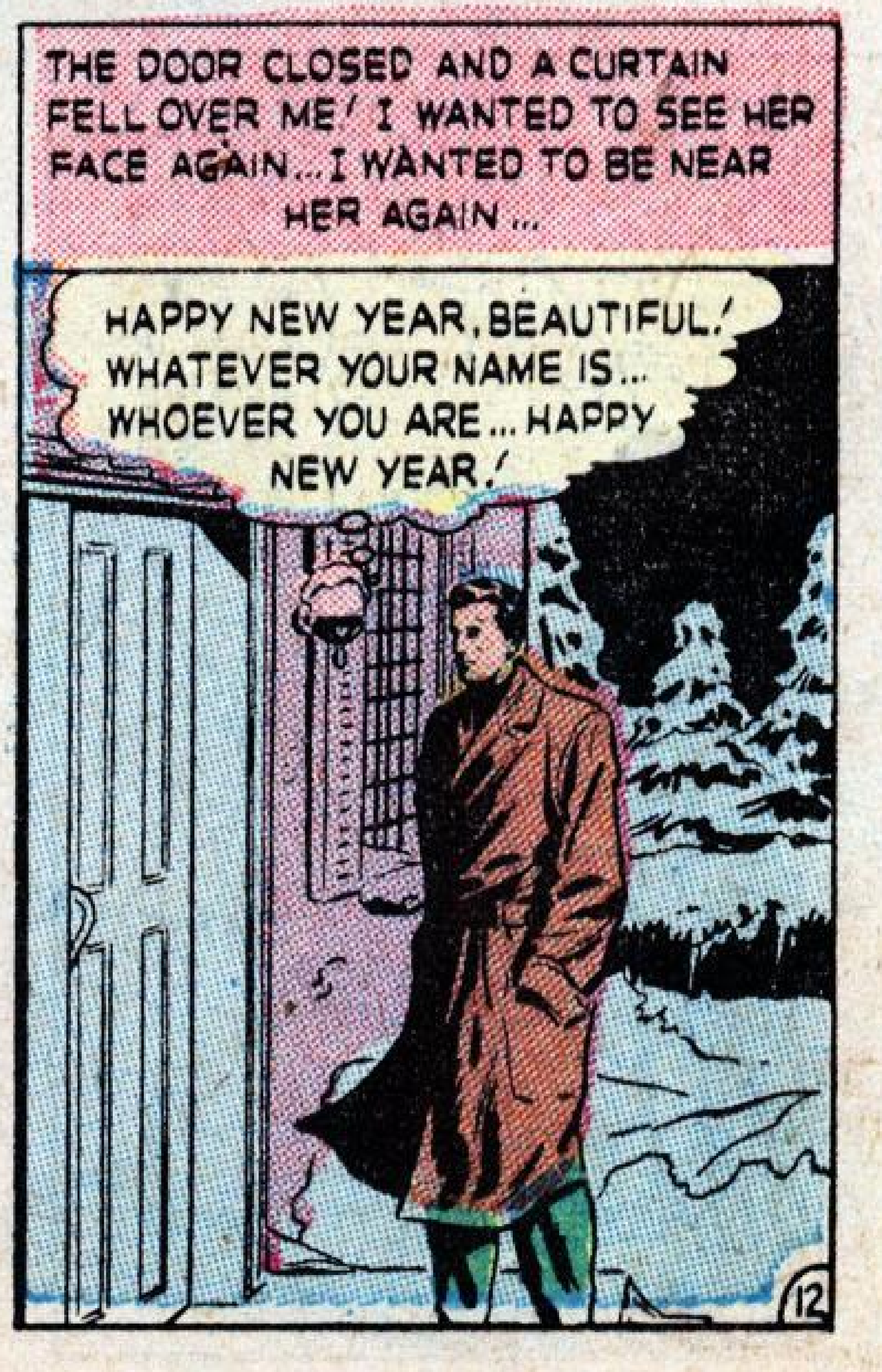

SINCE WHEN DO YOU OBJECT TO SEEING A DOLL SQUIRM, CORTEZ? THAT'S YOUR SPECIAL RACKET...YOUR PET GAME! ARE YA GOING SOFT, CORTEZ?
NOT AS SOFT AS YOU'LL BE IF YOU DON'T DROP THAT BLASTER!

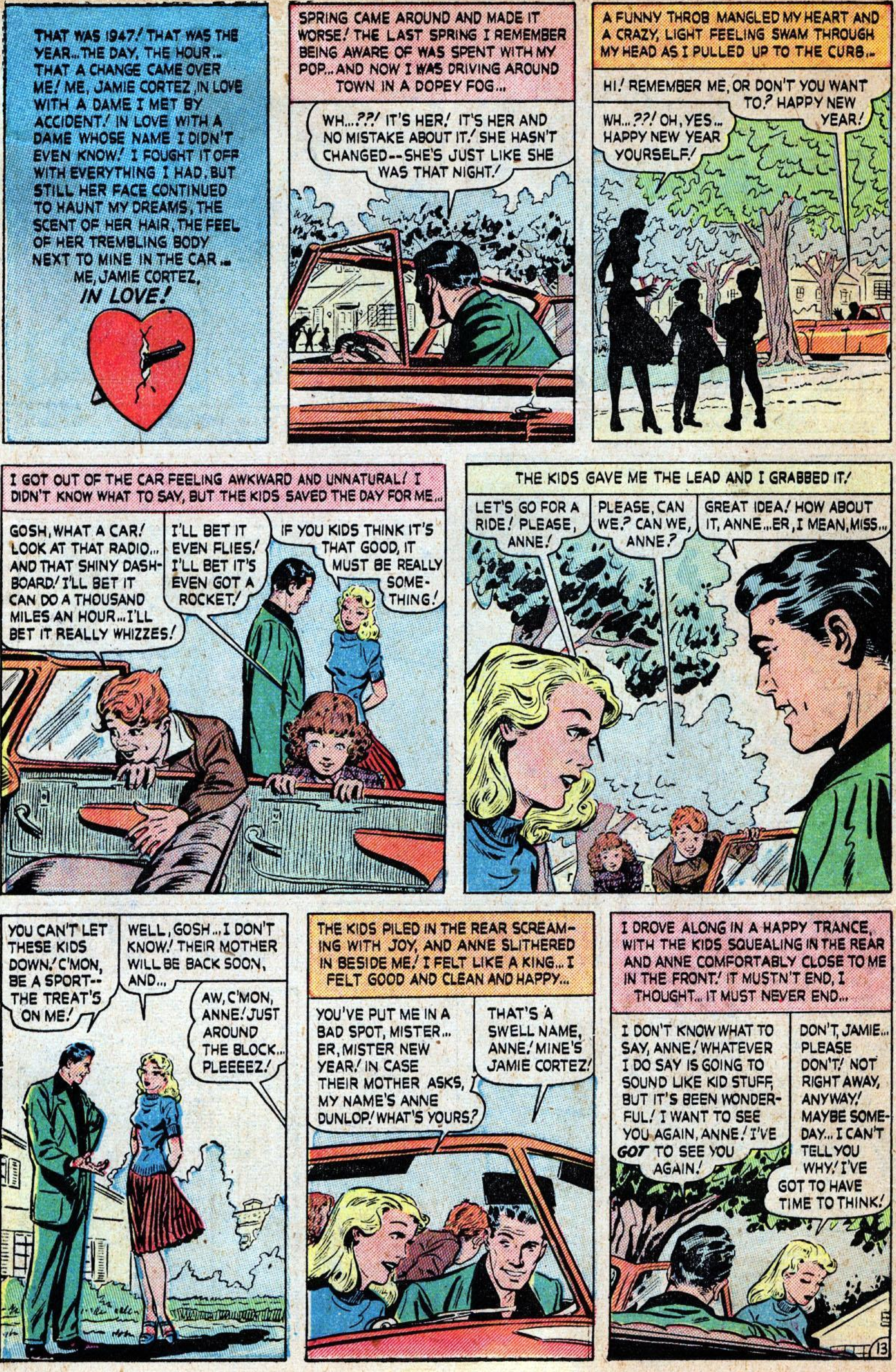

GET BACK, YOU HYENAS!

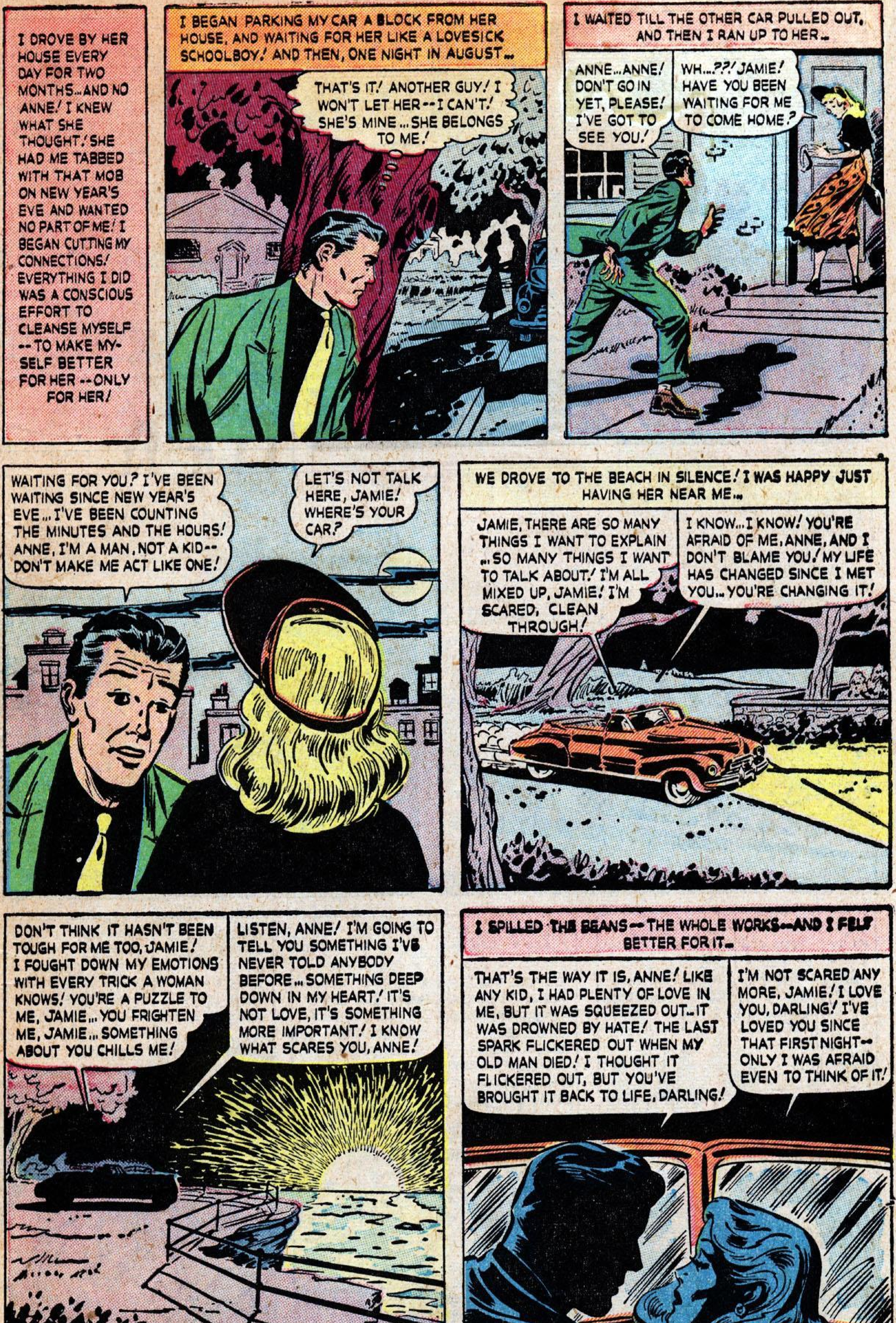

I WORKED LIKE A COLD MACHINE! ACTIVELY, INSTINCTIVELY. WITHOUT FEELING OR EMOTION, I BACKED OUT, WITH THE DAME BEHIND ME...
I'LL SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN AFTER I HELP THIS DOLL FIND HER AUNT! HAPPY NEW YEAR, YOU LUGS!

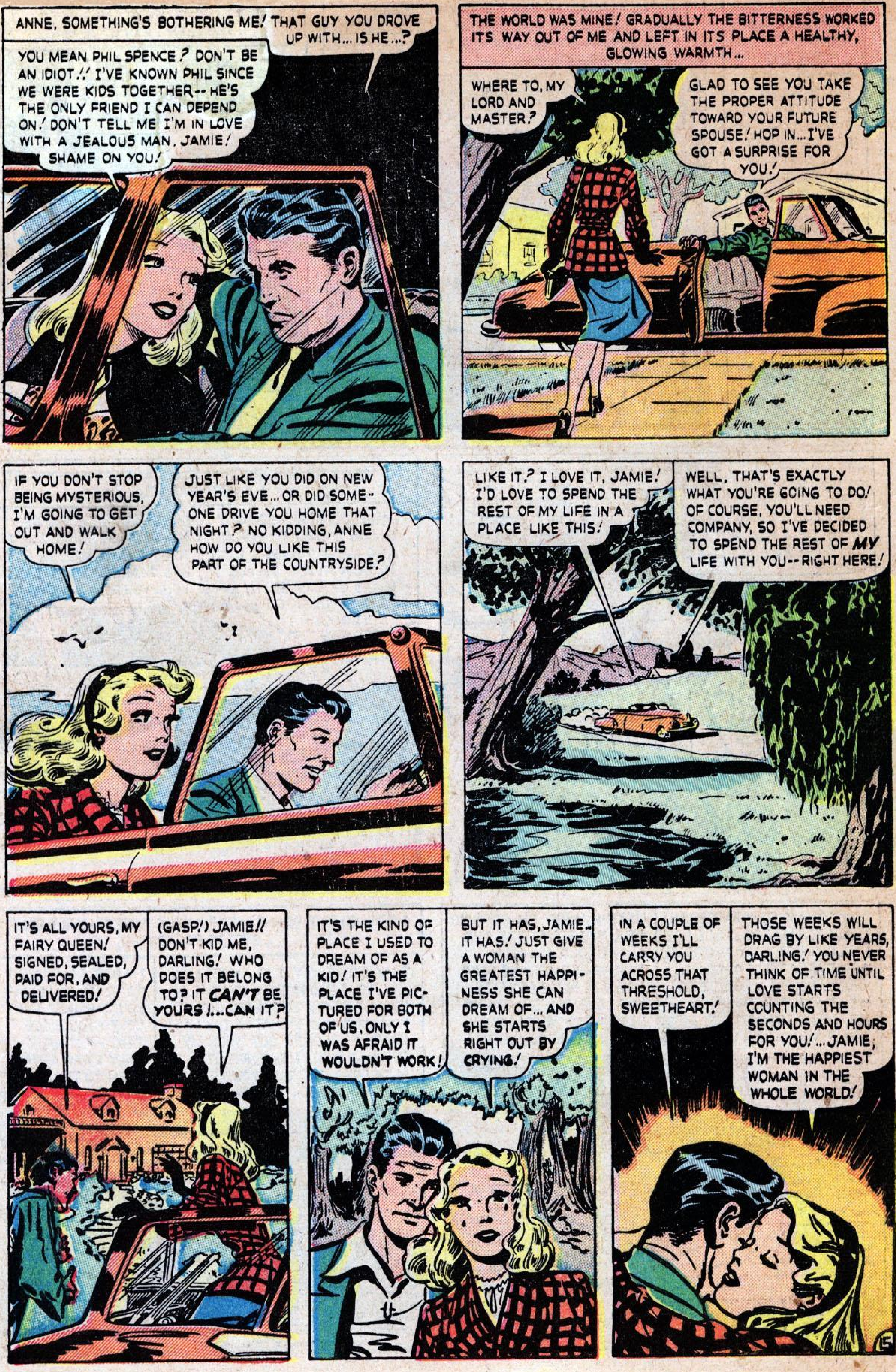

MY CAR WAS OUTSIDE! WE GOT AWAY FAST AND I COULD FEEL THE GIRL TREMBLING SILENTLY BESIDE ME...
WHERE'S HOME, MISS?
(SOB...SOB!) 39 PLOVER ROAD! PLEASE TAKE ME THERE--RIGHT AWAY! I'LL CALL A CAB, IF IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE!

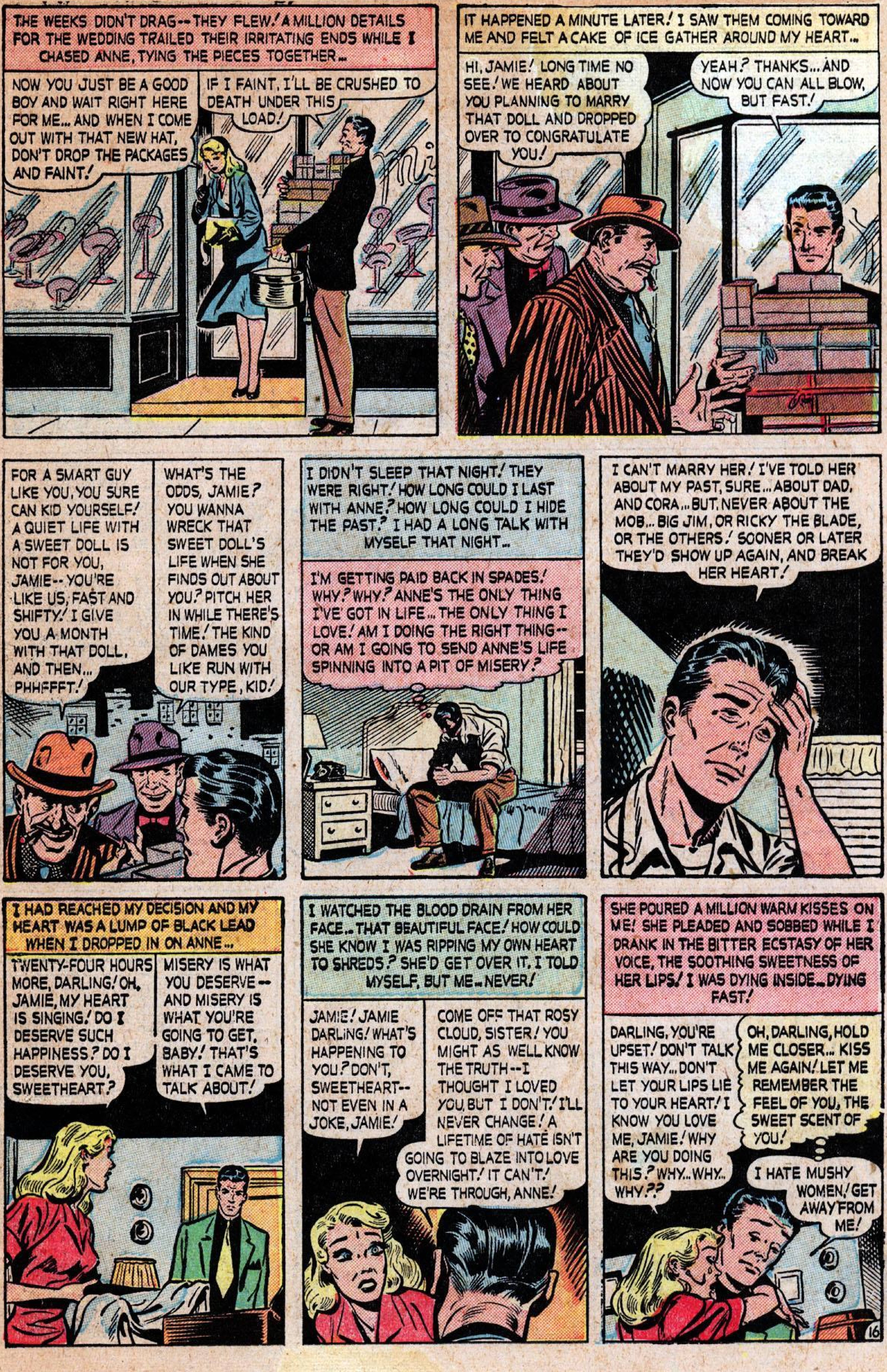

SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING TO ME! I KNEW IT WHEN I LEFT HER AT THE DOOR...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU! IT WAS THE MOST TERRIBLE THING I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED--I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL!
I'M SORRY IT HAPPENED! ANYWAY, YOU CAN CHARGE IT OFF TO THE OLD YEAR--I HOPE THE NEW ONE WILL BE PLEASANTER!

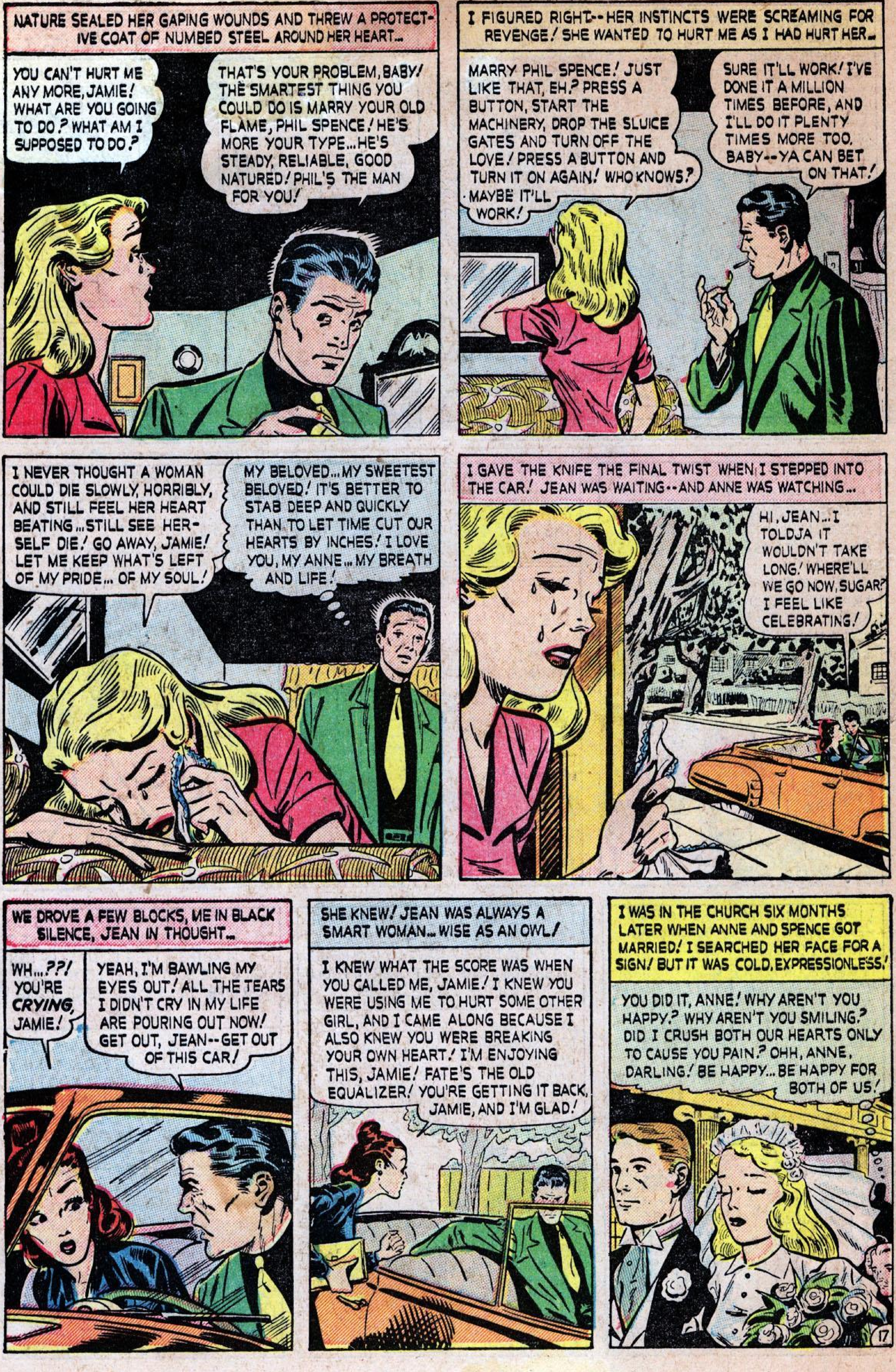

THE DOOR CLOSED AND A CURTAIN FELL OVER ME! I WANTED TO SEE HER FACE AGAIN...I WANTED TO BE NEAR HER AGAIN...
HAPPY NEW YEAR, BEAUTIFUL! WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS... WHOEVER YOU ARE... HAPPY NEW YEAR!


THAT WAS 1947! THAT WAS THE YEAR...THE DAY, THE HOUR.. THAT A CHANGE CAME OVER ME! ME, JAMIE CORTEZ, IN LOVE WITH A DAME I MET BY ACCIDENT! IN LOVE WITH A DAME WHOSE NAME I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW! I FOUGHT IT OFF WITH EVERYTHING I HAD, BUT STILL HER FACE CONTINUED TO HAUNT MY DREAMS, THE SCENT OF HER HAIR, THE FEEL OF HER TREMBLING BODY NEXT TO MINE IN THE CAR... ME, JAMIE CORTEZ, IN LOVE!
SPRING CAME AROUND AND MADE IT WORSE! THE LAST SPRING I REMEMBER BEING AWARE OF WAS SPENT WITH MY POP... AND NOW I WAS DRIVING AROUND TOWN IN A DOPEY FOG...
WH...??! IT'S HER! IT'S HER AND NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT! SHE HASN'T CHANGED--SHE'S JUST LIKE SHE WAS THAT NIGHT!
A FUNNY THROB MANGLED MY HEART AND A CRAZY, LIGHT FEELING SWAM THROUGH MY HEAD AS I PULLED UP TO THE CURB...
HI! REMEMBER ME, OR DON'T YOU WANT TO? HAPPY NEW YEAR!
WH...??! OH, YES... HAPPY NEW YEAR YOURSELF!
I GOT OUT OF THE CAR FEELING AWKWARD AND UNNATURAL! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, BUT THE KIDS SAVED THE DAY FOR ME...
GOSH, WHAT A CAR! LOOK AT THAT RADIO... AND THAT SHINY DASHBOARD! I'LL BET IT CAN DO A THOUSAND MILES AN HOUR...I'LL BET IT REALLY WHIZZES!
I'LL BET IT EVEN FLIES! I'LL BET IT'S EVEN GOT A ROCKET!
IF YOU KIDS THINK IT'S THAT GOOD, IT MUST BE REALLY SOMETHING!
THE KIDS GAVE ME THE LEAD AND I GRABBED IT!
LET'S GO FOR A RIDE! PLEASE, ANNE!
PLEASE, CAN WE? CAN WE, ANNE?
GREAT IDEA! HOW ABOUT IT, ANNE...ER, I MEAN, MISS...
YOU CAN'T LET THESE KIDS DOWN! C'MON, BE A SPORT--THE TREAT'S ON ME!
WELL, GOSH...I DON'T KNOW! THEIR MOTHER WILL BE BACK SOON, AND...
AW, C'MON, ANNE! JUST AROUND THE BLOCK... PLEEEEZ!
THE KIDS PILED IN THE REAR SCREAMING WITH JOY, AND ANNE SLITHERED IN BESIDE ME! I FELT LIKE A KING... I FELT GOOD AND CLEAN AND HAPPY...
YOU'VE PUT ME IN A BAD SPOT, MISTER... ER, MISTER NEW YEAR! IN CASE THEIR MOTHER ASKS, MY NAME'S ANNE DUNLOP! WHAT'S YOURS?
THAT'S A SWELL NAME, ANNE! MINE'S JAMIE CORTEZ!
I DROVE ALONG IN A HAPPY TRANCE, WITH THE KIDS SQUEALING IN THE REAR AND ANNE COMFORTABLY CLOSE TO ME IN THE FRONT! IT MUSTN'T END, I THOUGHT... IT MUST NEVER END...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, ANNE! WHATEVER I DO SAY IS GOING TO SOUND LIKE KID STUFF, BUT IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL! I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, ANNE! I'VE GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
DON'T, JAMIE... PLEASE DON'T! NOT RIGHT AWAY, ANYWAY! MAYBE SOMEDAY... I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY! I'VE GOT TO HAVE TIME TO THINK!


I DROVE BY HER HOUSE EVERY DAY FOR TWO MONTHS...AND NO ANNE! I KNEW WHAT SHE THOUGHT! SHE HAD ME TABBED WITH THAT MOB ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AND WANTED NO PART OF ME! I BEGAN CUTTING MY CONNECTIONS! EVERYTHING I DID WAS A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO CLEANSE MYSELF --TO MAKE MYSELF BETTER FOR HER --ONLY FOR HER!
I BEGAN PARKING MY CAR A BLOCK FROM HER HOUSE, AND WAITING FOR HER LIKE A LOVESICK SCHOOLBOY! AND THEN, ONE NIGHT IN AUGUST...
THAT'S IT! ANOTHER GUY! I WON'T LET HER--I CAN'T! SHE'S MINE...SHE BELONGS TO ME!
I WAITED TILL THE OTHER CAR PULLED OUT, AND THEN I RAN UP TO HER...
ANNE...ANNE! DON'T GO IN YET, PLEASE! I'VE GOT TO SEE YOU!
WH...??! JAMIE! HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING FOR ME TO COME HOME?
WAITING FOR YOU? I'VE BEEN WAITING SINCE NEW YEAR'S EVE...I'VE BEEN COUNTING THE MINUTES AND THE HOURS! ANNE, I'M A MAN, NOT A KID--DON'T MAKE ME ACT LIKE ONE!
LET'S NOT TALK HERE, JAMIE! WHERE'S YOUR CAR?
WE DROVE TO THE BEACH IN SILENCE! I WAS HAPPY JUST HAVING HER NEAR ME...
JAMIE, THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO EXPLAIN...SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO TALK ABOUT! I'M ALL MIXED UP, JAMIE! I'M SCARED, CLEAN THROUGH!
I KNOW...I KNOW! YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME, ANNE, AND I DON'T BLAME YOU! MY LIFE HAS CHANGED SINCE I MET YOU...YOU'RE CHANGING IT!
DON'T THINK IT HASN'T BEEN TOUGH FOR ME TOO, JAMIE! I FOUGHT DOWN MY EMOTIONS WITH EVERY TRICK A WOMAN KNOWS! YOU'RE A PUZZLE TO ME, JAMIE...YOU FRIGHTEN ME, JAMIE...SOMETHING ABOUT YOU CHILLS ME!
LISTEN, ANNE! I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY BEFORE...SOMETHING DEEP DOWN IN MY HEART! IT'S NOT LOVE, IT'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT! I KNOW WHAT SCARES YOU, ANNE!
I SPILLED THE BEANS--THE WHOLE WORKS--AND I FELT BETTER FOR IT...
THAT'S THE WAY IT IS, ANNE! LIKE ANY KID, I HAD PLENTY OF LOVE IN ME, BUT IT WAS SQUEEZED OUT...IT WAS DROWNED BY HATE! THE LAST SPARK FLICKERED OUT WHEN MY OLD MAN DIED! I THOUGHT IT FLICKERED OUT, BUT YOU'VE BROUGHT IT BACK TO LIFE, DARLING!
I'M NOT SCARED ANY MORE, JAMIE! I LOVE YOU, DARLING! I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THAT FIRST NIGHT--ONLY I WAS AFRAID EVEN TO THINK OF IT!


ANNE, SOMETHING'S BOTHERING ME! THAT GUY YOU DROVE UP WITH... IS HE...?
YOU MEAN PHIL SPENCE? DON'T BE AN IDIOT!! I'VE KNOWN PHIL SINCE WE WERE KIDS TOGETHER -- HE'S THE ONLY FRIEND I CAN DEPEND ON! DON'T TELL ME I'M IN LOVE WITH A JEALOUS MAN, JAMIE! SHAME ON YOU!
THE WORLD WAS MINE! GRADUALLY THE BITTERNESS WORKED ITS WAY OUT OF ME AND LEFT IN ITS PLACE A HEALTHY, GLOWING WARMTH...
WHERE TO, MY LORD AND MASTER?
GLAD TO SEE YOU TAKE THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR FUTURE SPOUSE! HOP IN... I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU!
IF YOU DON'T STOP BEING MYSTERIOUS, I'M GOING TO GET OUT AND WALK HOME!
JUST LIKE YOU DID ON NEW YEAR'S EVE... OR DID SOMEONE DRIVE YOU HOME THAT NIGHT? NO KIDDING, ANNE HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS PART OF THE COUNTRYSIDE?
LIKE IT? I LOVE IT, JAMIE! I'D LOVE TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
WELL, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO! OF COURSE, YOU'LL NEED COMPANY, SO I'VE DECIDED TO SPEND THE REST OF *MY* LIFE WITH YOU -- RIGHT HERE!
IT'S ALL YOURS, MY FAIRY QUEEN! SIGNED, SEALED, PAID FOR, AND DELIVERED!
(GASP!) JAMIE!! DON'T KID ME, DARLING! WHO DOES IT BELONG TO? IT *CAN'T* BE YOURS!...CAN IT?
IT'S THE KIND OF PLACE I USED TO DREAM OF AS A KID! IT'S THE PLACE I'VE PICTURED FOR BOTH OF US, ONLY I WAS AFRAID IT WOULDN'T WORK!
BUT IT HAS, JAMIE... IT HAS! JUST GIVE A WOMAN THE GREATEST HAPPINESS SHE CAN DREAM OF... AND SHE STARTS RIGHT OUT BY CRYING!
IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS I'LL CARRY YOU ACROSS THAT THRESHOLD, SWEETHEART!
THOSE WEEKS WILL DRAG BY LIKE YEARS, DARLING! YOU NEVER THINK OF TIME UNTIL LOVE STARTS COUNTING THE SECONDS AND HOURS FOR YOU!... JAMIE, I'M THE HAPPIEST WOMAN IN THE WHOLE WORLD!


THE WEEKS DIDN'T DRAG--THEY FLEW! A MILLION DETAILS FOR THE WEDDING TRAILED THEIR IRRITATING ENDS WHILE I CHASED ANNE, TYING THE PIECES TOGETHER...
NOW YOU JUST BE A GOOD BOY AND WAIT RIGHT HERE FOR ME... AND WHEN I COME OUT WITH THAT NEW HAT, DON'T DROP THE PACKAGES AND FAINT!
IF I FAINT, I'LL BE CRUSHED TO DEATH UNDER THIS LOAD!
IT HAPPENED A MINUTE LATER! I SAW THEM COMING TOWARD ME AND FELT A CAKE OF ICE GATHER AROUND MY HEART...
HI, JAMIE! LONG TIME NO SEE! WE HEARD ABOUT YOU PLANNING TO MARRY THAT DOLL AND DROPPED OVER TO CONGRATULATE YOU!
YEAH? THANKS... AND NOW YOU CAN ALL BLOW, BUT FAST!
FOR A SMART GUY LIKE YOU, YOU SURE CAN KID YOURSELF! A QUIET LIFE WITH A SWEET DOLL IS NOT FOR YOU, JAMIE-- YOU'RE LIKE US, FAST AND SHIFTY! I GIVE YOU A MONTH WITH THAT DOLL, AND THEN... PHHFFFT!
WHAT'S THE ODDS, JAMIE? YOU WANNA WRECK THAT SWEET DOLL'S LIFE WHEN SHE FINDS OUT ABOUT YOU? PITCH HER IN WHILE THERE'S TIME! THE KIND OF DAMES YOU LIKE RUN WITH OUR TYPE, KID!
I DIDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT! THEY WERE RIGHT! HOW LONG COULD I LAST WITH ANNE? HOW LONG COULD I HIDE THE PAST? I HAD A LONG TALK WITH MYSELF THAT NIGHT...
I'M GETTING PAID BACK IN SPADES! WHY? WHY? ANNE'S THE ONLY THING I'VE GOT IN LIFE... THE ONLY THING I LOVE! AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING-- OR AM I GOING TO SEND ANNE'S LIFE SPINNING INTO A PIT OF MISERY?
I CAN'T MARRY HER! I'VE TOLD HER ABOUT MY PAST, SURE... ABOUT DAD, AND CORA... BUT, NEVER ABOUT THE MOB... BIG JIM, OR RICKY THE BLADE, OR THE OTHERS! SOONER OR LATER THEY'D SHOW UP AGAIN, AND BREAK HER HEART!
I HAD REACHED MY DECISION AND MY HEART WAS A LUMP OF BLACK LEAD WHEN I DROPPED IN ON ANNE...
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS MORE, DARLING! OH, JAMIE, MY HEART IS SINGING! DO I DESERVE SUCH HAPPINESS? DO I DESERVE YOU, SWEETHEART?
MISERY IS WHAT YOU DESERVE-- AND MISERY IS WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET, BABY! THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TALK ABOUT!
I WATCHED THE BLOOD DRAIN FROM HER FACE... THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE! HOW COULD SHE KNOW I WAS RIPPING MY OWN HEART TO SHREDS? SHE'D GET OVER IT, I TOLD MYSELF, BUT ME... NEVER!
JAMIE! JAMIE DARLING! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU? DON'T, SWEETHEART-- NOT EVEN IN A JOKE, JAMIE!
COME OFF THAT ROSY CLOUD, SISTER! YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW THE TRUTH--I THOUGHT I LOVED YOU, BUT I DON'T! I'LL NEVER CHANGE! A LIFETIME OF HATE ISN'T GOING TO BLAZE INTO LOVE OVERNIGHT! IT CAN'T! WE'RE THROUGH, ANNE!
SHE POURED A MILLION WARM KISSES ON ME! SHE PLEADED AND SOBBED WHILE I DRANK IN THE BITTER ECSTASY OF HER VOICE, THE SOOTHING SWEETNESS OF HER LIPS! I WAS DYING INSIDE...DYING FAST!
DARLING, YOU'RE UPSET! DON'T TALK THIS WAY... DON'T LET YOUR LIPS LIE TO YOUR HEART! I KNOW YOU LOVE ME, JAMIE! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHY... WHY... WHY??
OH, DARLING, HOLD ME CLOSER... KISS ME AGAIN! LET ME REMEMBER THE FEEL OF YOU, THE SWEET SCENT OF YOU!
I HATE MUSHY WOMEN! GET AWAY FROM ME!


NATURE SEALED HER GAPING WOUNDS AND THREW A PROTECTIVE COAT OF NUMBED STEEL AROUND HER HEART...
YOU CAN'T HURT ME ANY MORE, JAMIE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, BABY! THE SMARTEST THING YOU COULD DO IS MARRY YOUR OLD FLAME, PHIL SPENCE! HE'S MORE YOUR TYPE...HE'S STEADY, RELIABLE, GOOD NATURED! PHIL'S THE MAN FOR YOU!
I FIGURED RIGHT--HER INSTINCTS WERE SCREAMING FOR REVENGE! SHE WANTED TO HURT ME AS I HAD HURT HER...
MARRY PHIL SPENCE! JUST LIKE THAT, EH? PRESS A BUTTON, START THE MACHINERY, DROP THE SLUICE GATES AND TURN OFF THE LOVE! PRESS A BUTTON AND TURN IT ON AGAIN! WHO KNOWS? MAYBE IT'LL WORK!
SURE IT'LL WORK! I'VE DONE IT A MILLION TIMES BEFORE, AND I'LL DO IT PLENTY TIMES MORE TOO, BABY--YA CAN BET ON THAT!
I NEVER THOUGHT A WOMAN COULD DIE SLOWLY, HORRIBLY, AND STILL FEEL HER HEART BEATING...STILL SEE HERSELF DIE! GO AWAY, JAMIE! LET ME KEEP WHAT'S LEFT OF MY PRIDE... OF MY SOUL!
MY BELOVED...MY SWEETEST BELOVED! IT'S BETTER TO STAB DEEP AND QUICKLY THAN TO LET TIME CUT OUR HEARTS BY INCHES! I LOVE YOU, MY ANNE... MY BREATH AND LIFE!
I GAVE THE KNIFE THE FINAL TWIST WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE CAR! JEAN WAS WAITING--AND ANNE WAS WATCHING...
HI, JEAN...I TOLDJA IT WOULDN'T TAKE LONG! WHERE'LL WE GO NOW, SUGAR? I FEEL LIKE CELEBRATING!
WE DROVE A FEW BLOCKS, ME IN BLACK SILENCE, JEAN IN THOUGHT...
WH...??! YOU'RE *CRYING*, JAMIE!
YEAH, I'M BAWLING MY EYES OUT! ALL THE TEARS I DIDN'T CRY IN MY LIFE ARE POURING OUT NOW! GET OUT, JEAN--GET OUT OF THIS CAR!
SHE KNEW! JEAN WAS ALWAYS A SMART WOMAN... WISE AS AN OWL!
I KNEW WHAT THE SCORE WAS WHEN YOU CALLED ME, JAMIE! I KNEW YOU WERE USING ME TO HURT SOME OTHER GIRL, AND I CAME ALONG BECAUSE I ALSO KNEW YOU WERE BREAKING YOUR OWN HEART! I'M ENJOYING THIS, JAMIE! FATE'S THE OLD EQUALIZER! YOU'RE GETTING IT BACK, JAMIE, AND I'M GLAD!
I WAS IN THE CHURCH SIX MONTHS LATER WHEN ANNE AND SPENCE GOT MARRIED! I SEARCHED HER FACE FOR A SIGN! BUT IT WAS COLD, EXPRESSIONLESS!
YOU DID IT, ANNE! WHY AREN'T YOU HAPPY? WHY AREN'T YOU SMILING? DID I CRUSH BOTH OUR HEARTS ONLY TO CAUSE YOU PAIN? OHH, ANNE, DARLING! BE HAPPY... BE HAPPY FOR BOTH OF US!

THAT WAS MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AGO! LOOK AT ME NOW, BOYS! SOME JOKE, EH? ME, JAMIE CORTEZ, BUM, PRINCE OF THE ROAD, PENNY-ANTE HUSTLER! WHAT'S THE SCORE? WHAT'S THE PAY-OFF?
THE PAY-OFF IS WE BETTER UNLOAD BEFORE THE RAILROAD BULLS START BEATIN' SKULLS! WE'RE COMIN' INTO BETHLEHEM!
WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW! MY OLD HOME TOWN! I'VE COME FULL CIRCLE AND HERE I AM AGAIN-- THE PRODIGAL RETURNING!
GUESS I'LL GO BACK TO THE RAILROAD YARDS AND GET OUTA TOWN! THESE FAMILIAR STREETS DEPRESS ME!
PHILIP! BE CAREFUL, DEAR! DON'T RUN SO FAST...YOU'LL BUMP INTO SOMETHING!
WHOOOO! LOOK, MOMMY, I'M A P-38! WHOOOO!
APPAREL
PHILIP! NOT THAT WAY! DADDY'S WAITING ACROSS THE STREET!
ANNE! MY ANNE!!
HELLO, DARLING! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU-- IT SEEMS SO LONG SINCE MORNING! MY, WHAT A TIME I'VE HAD WITH THIS RASCAL! RIGHT NOW HE'S A P-38!
IT'S ALL HAPPENED THE WAY I HOPED IT WOULD! EVERTHING'S TURNED OUT RIGHT FOR ANNE!
SHE'S GOT A LOVING HUSBAND, A DECENT KID...A NORMAL LIFE!
YOU, YOUNG MAN, WERE IN SUCH A RUSH YOU ALMOST KNOCKED A MAN DOWN! I SAW THE WHOLE THING!
OH, PHILIP, DON'T SCOLD THE CHILD! ANYWAY, THAT WAS JUST SOME OLD TRAMP! COME ON, DARLINGS-- LET'S GET HOME!
WHO KNOWS? SOME GUYS GET A SECOND CHANCE -- WHY NOT ME?
THE END

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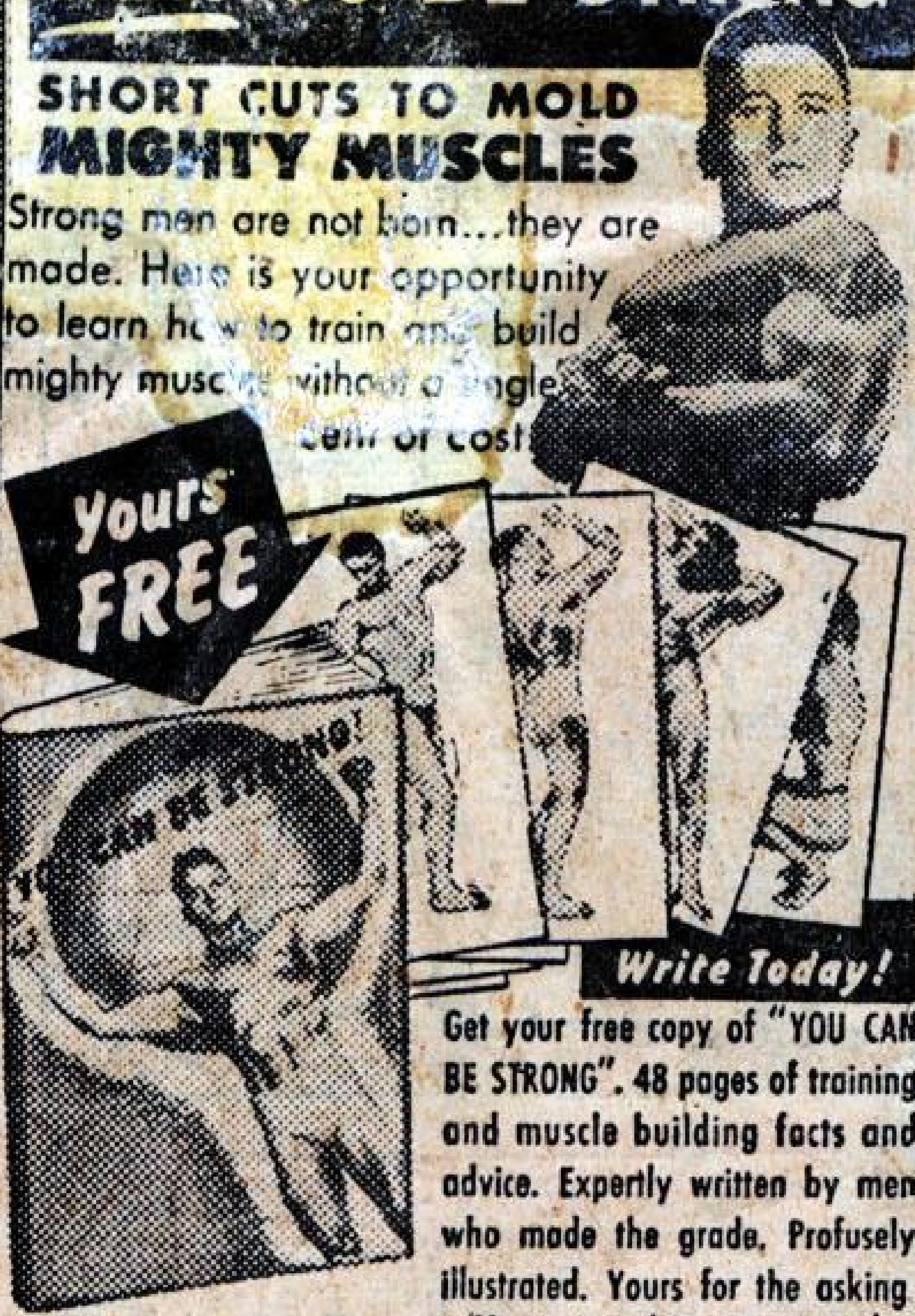

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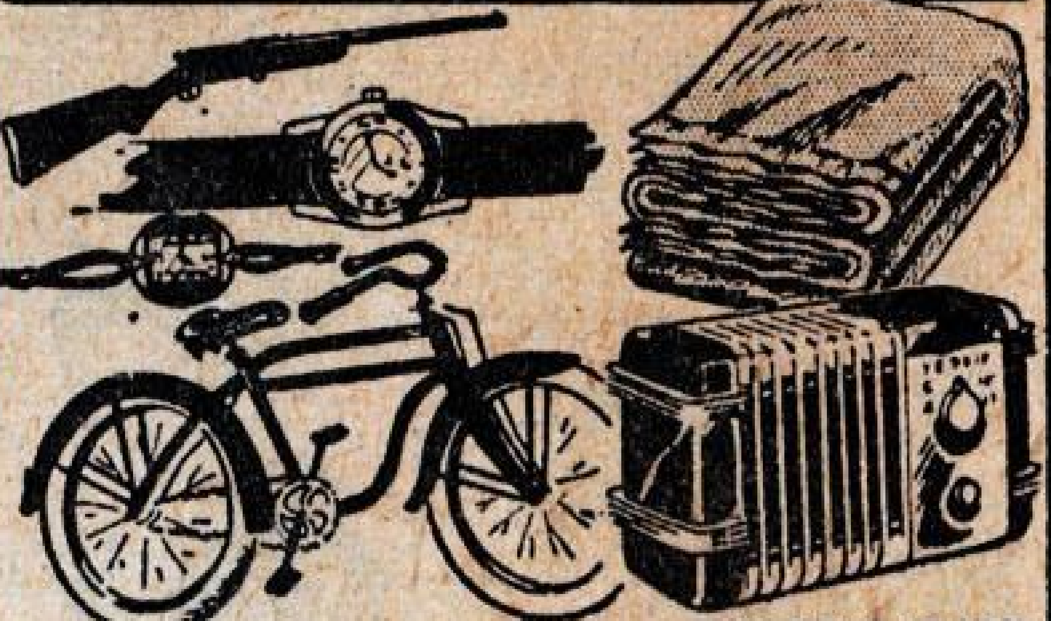

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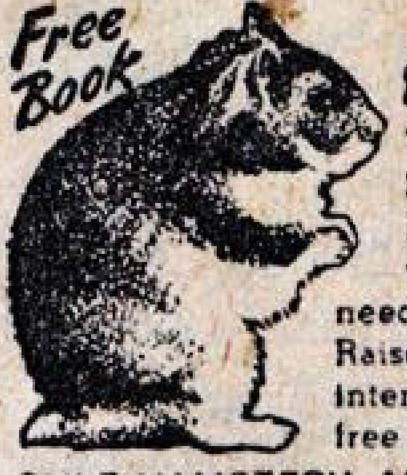

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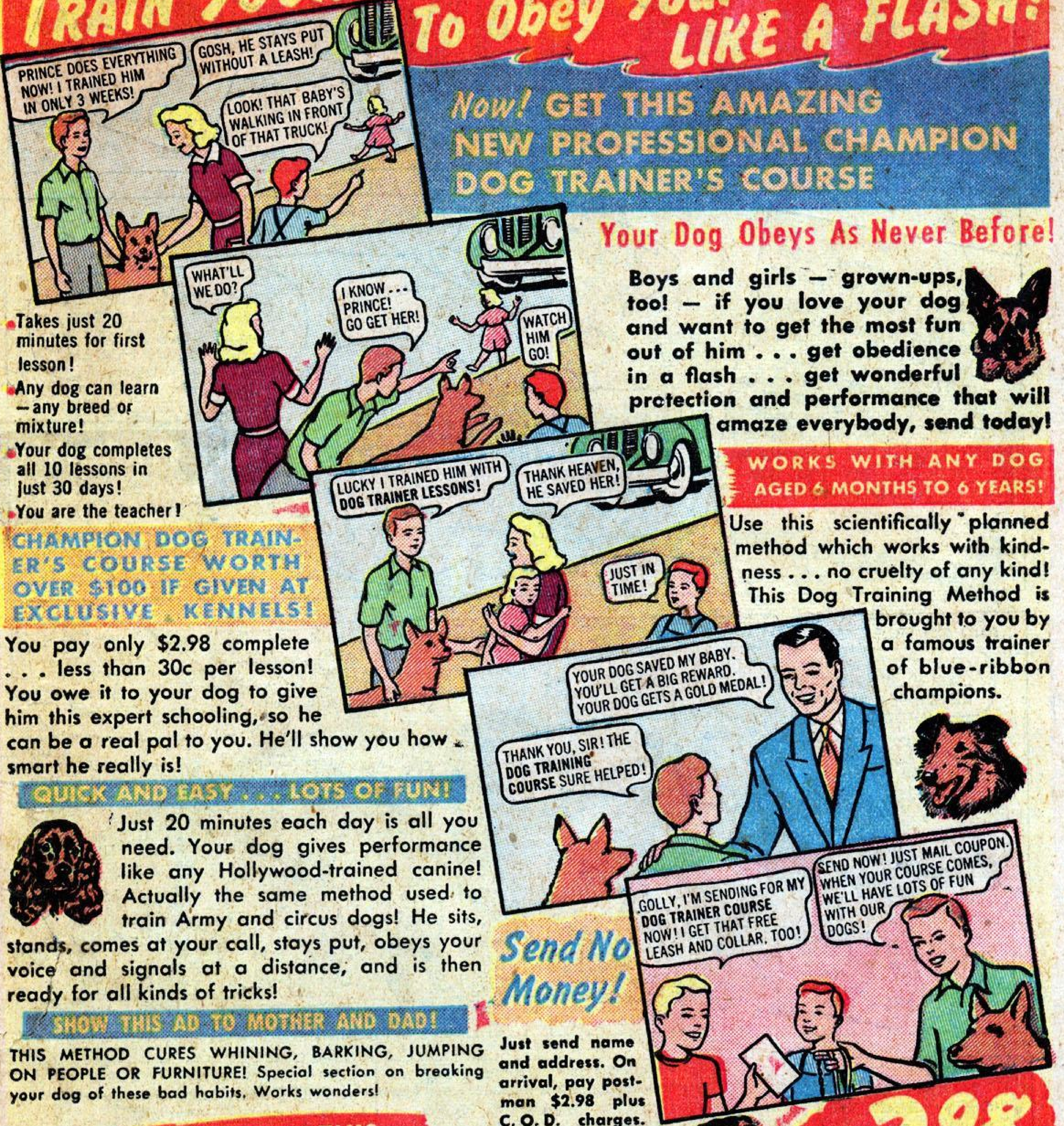
TRAIN YOUR DOG To Obey Your Commands LIKE A FLASH!

Now! GET THIS AMAZING NEW PROFESSIONAL CHAMPION DOG TRAINER'S COURSE


PRINCE DOES EVERYTHING NOW! I TRAINED HIM IN ONLY 3 WEEKS!
GOSH, HE STAYS PUT WITHOUT A LEASH!
LOOK! THAT BABY'S WALKING IN FRONT OF THAT TRUCK!
WHAT'LL WE DO?
I KNOW... PRINCE! GO GET HER!
WATCH HIM GO!
LUCKY I TRAINED HIM WITH DOG TRAINER LESSONS!
THANK HEAVEN, HE SAVED HER!
JUST IN TIME!
YOUR DOG SAVED MY BABY. YOU'LL GET A BIG REWARD. YOUR DOG GETS A GOLD MEDAL!
THANK YOU, SIR! THE DOG TRAINING COURSE SURE HELPED!
GOLLY, I'M SENDING FOR MY DOG TRAINER COURSE NOW! I GET THAT FREE LEASH AND COLLAR, TOO!
SEND NOW! JUST MAIL COUPON. WHEN YOUR COURSE COMES, WE'LL HAVE LOTS OF FUN WITH OUR DOGS!

Your Dog Obeys As Never Before!

Boys and girls — grown-ups, too! — if you love your dog and want to get the most fun out of him . . . get obedience in a flash . . . get wonderful protection and performance that will amaze everybody, send today!

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Use this scientifically planned method which works with kindness . . . no cruelty of any kind! This Dog Training Method is brought to you by a famous trainer of blue-ribbon champions.

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- You are the teacher!

CHAMPION DOG TRAINER'S COURSE WORTH OVER $100 IF GIVEN AT EXCLUSIVE KENNELS!

You pay only $2.98 complete . . . less than 30c per lesson! You owe it to your dog to give him this expert schooling, so he can be a real pal to you. He'll show you how smart he really is!

QUICK AND EASY . . . LOTS OF FUN!

Just 20 minutes each day is all you need. Your dog gives performance like any Hollywood-trained canine! Actually the same method used to train Army and circus dogs! He sits, stands, comes at your call, stays put, obeys your voice and signals at a distance, and is then ready for all kinds of tricks!

SHOW THIS AD TO MOTHER AND DAD!

THIS METHOD CURES WHINING, BARKING, JUMPING ON PEOPLE OR FURNITURE! Special section on breaking your dog of these bad habits. Works wonders!

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Just send name and address. On arrival, pay postman $2.98 plus C.O.D. charges. OR SAVE MONEY, send $3 postpaid and we pay postage.

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YOU GET ALL THIS:

10 Tested Lessons — HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DOG TO OBEY YOUR VOICE AND SIGNALS even at a distance!

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DOG
TO OBEY YOUR VOICE AND SIGNALS

Plus FREE! Professional 6-foot web training leash

Also FREE! Professional nickel-plated training collar to fit your dog

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150 Nassau Street, New York 7, N. Y.

Rush my Professional Dog Trainer's Course PLUS FREE Professional 6-foot web training leash and FREE nickel-plated link professional training collar.

Dog's neck size (circle one) 14" 16" 18" 20" 22"

☐ Send C.O.D. I pay postage. ☐ Enclosed find $3. I save postage.

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FARMHAND MURDER CASE!

STARRING DETECTIVE SKIP McCOY

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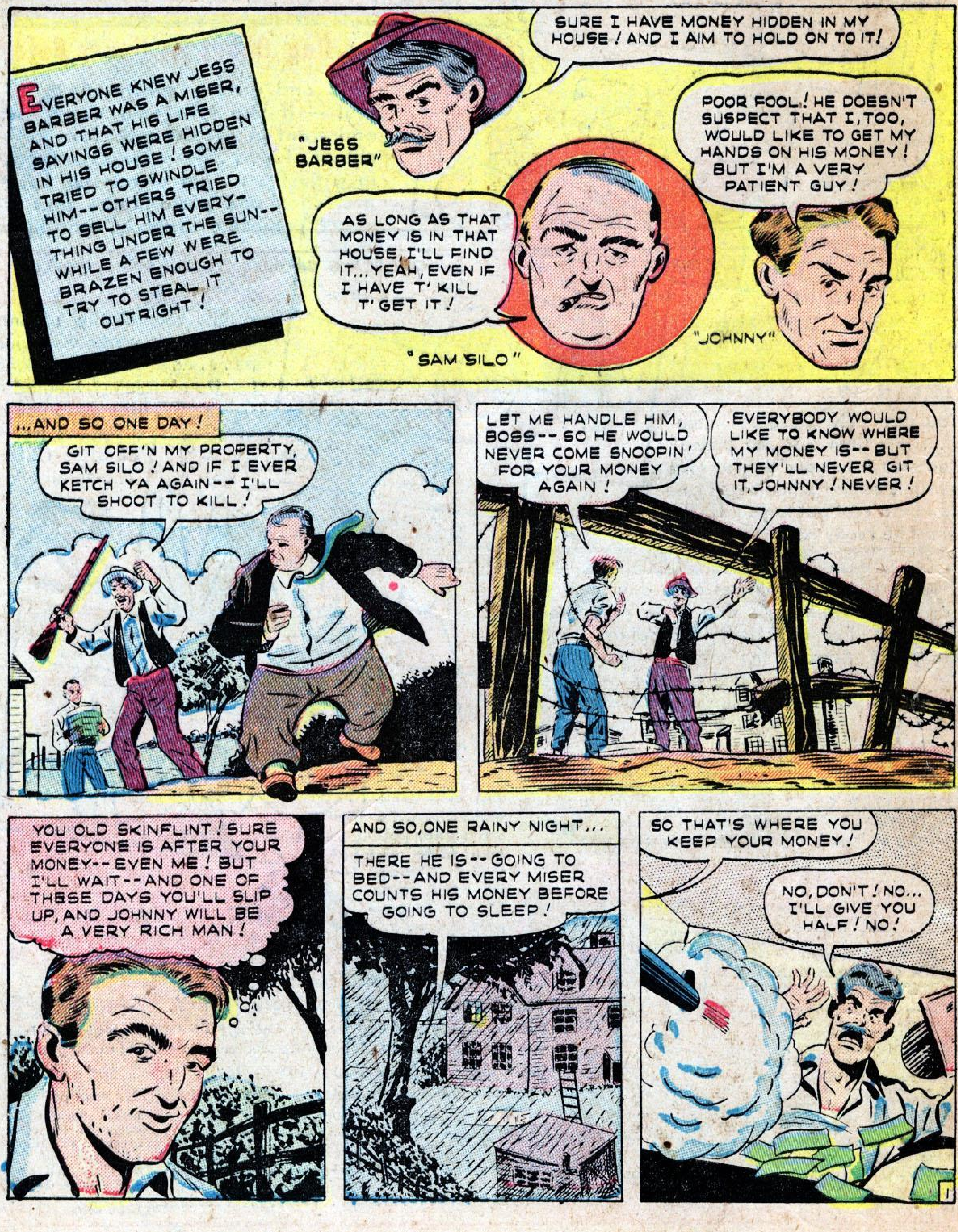
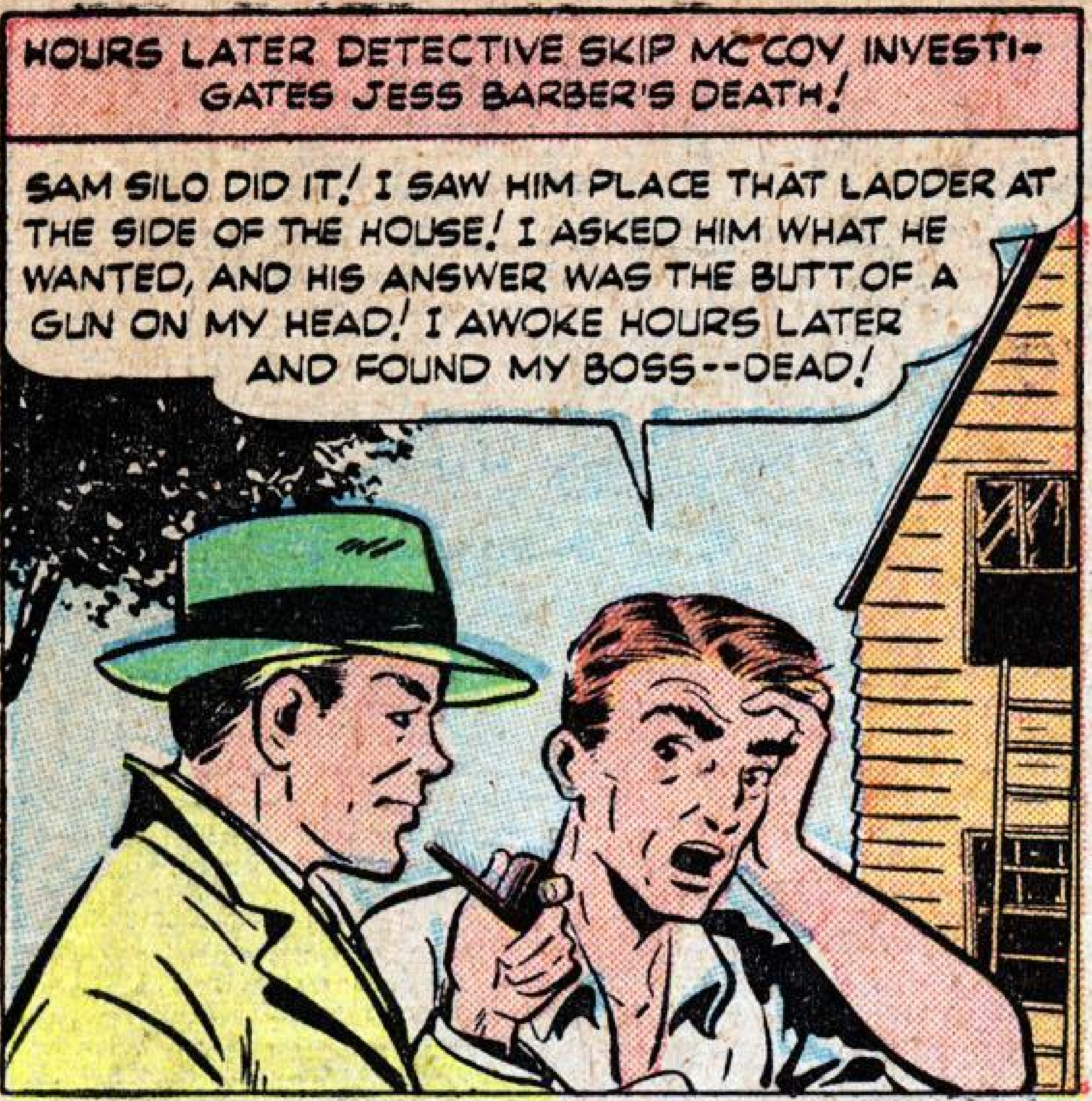
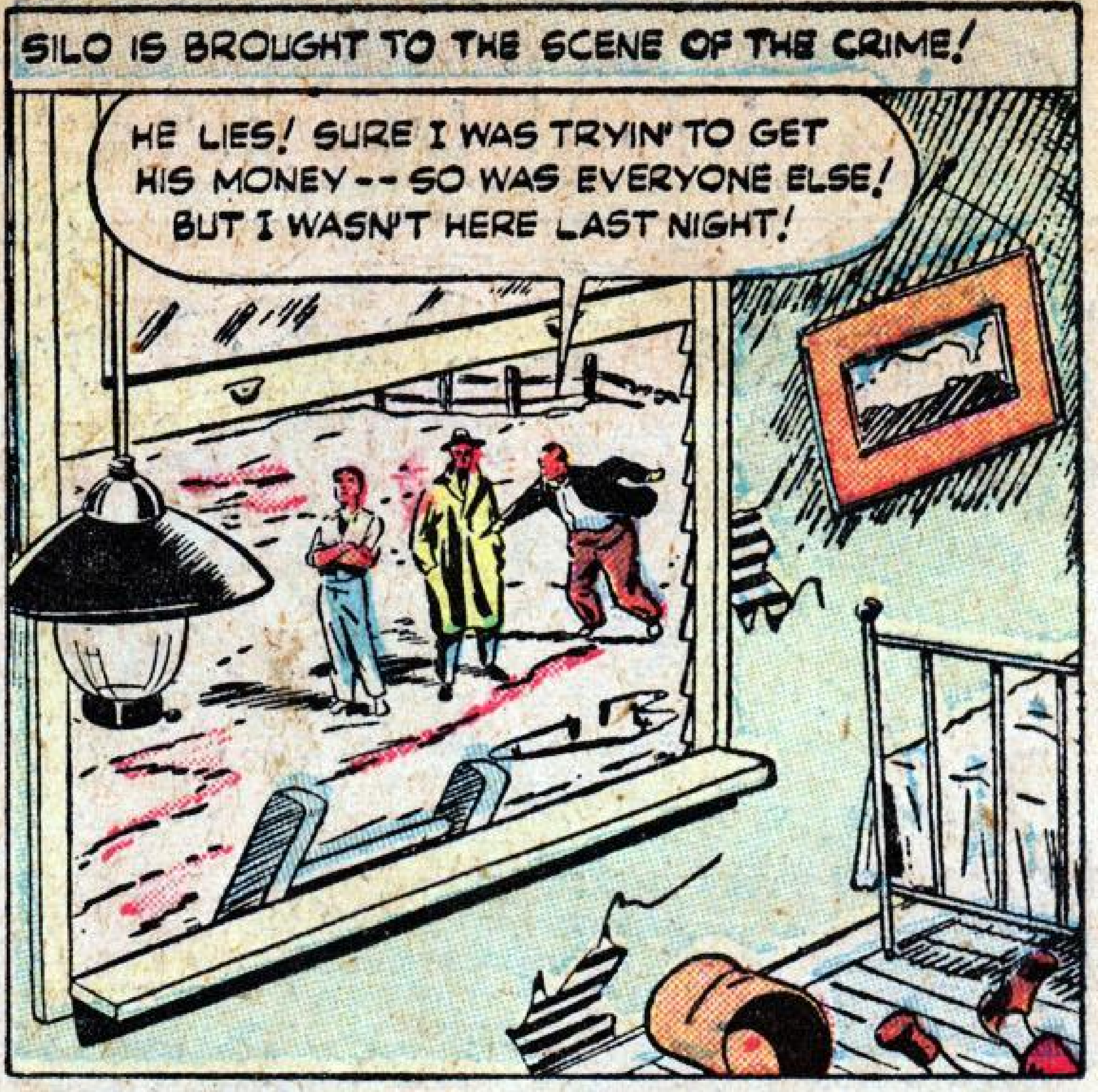
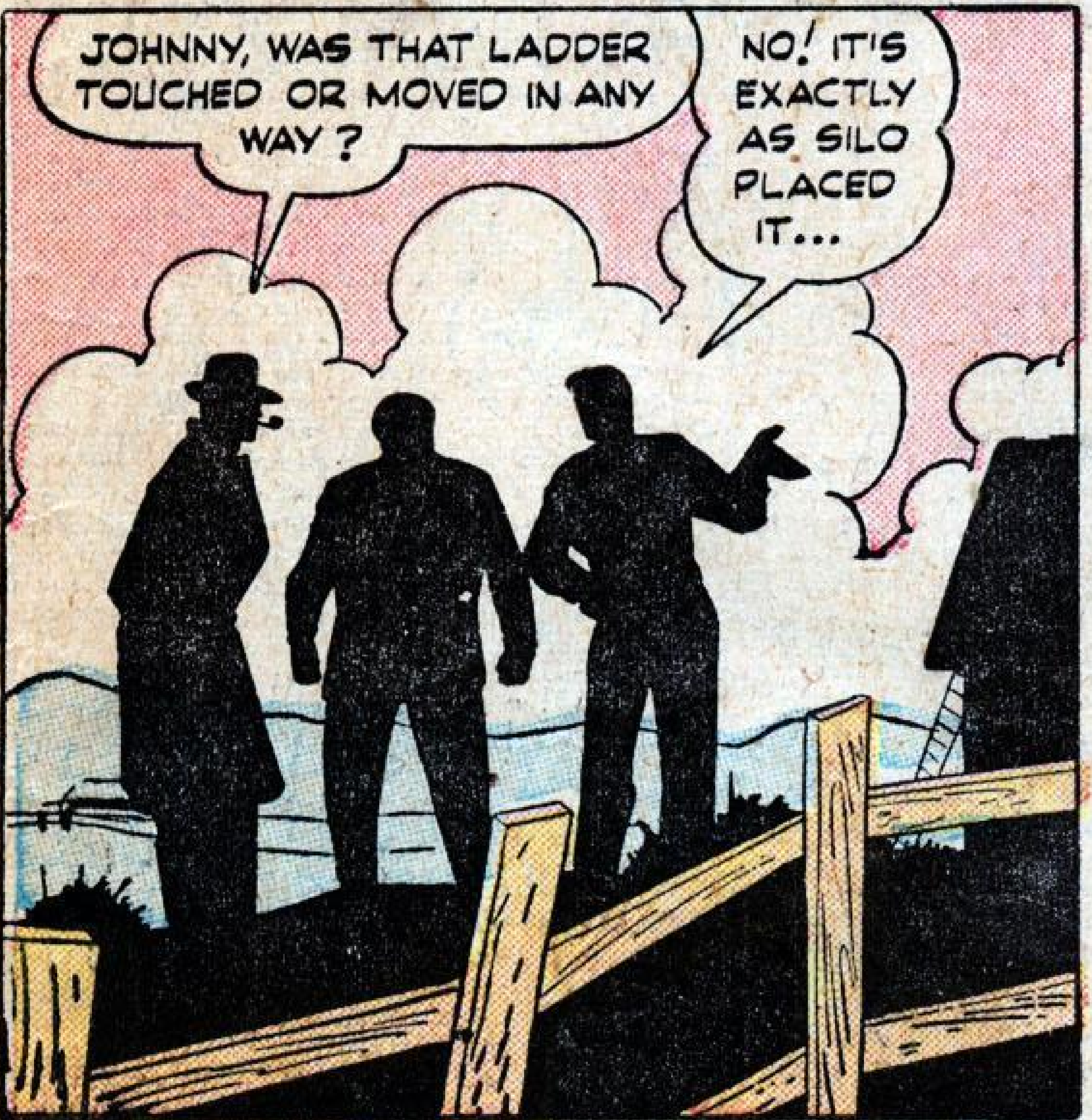
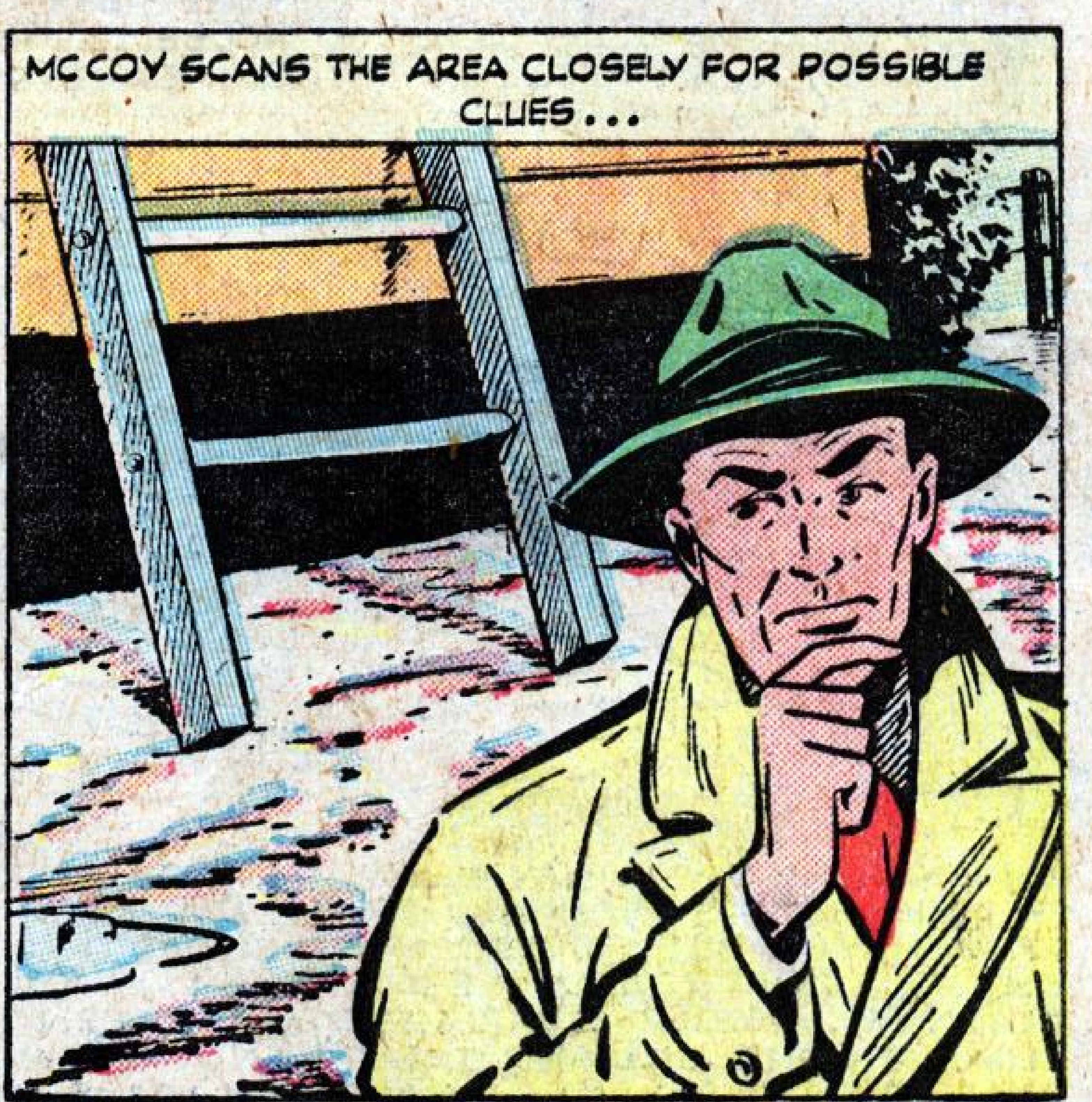
A.B.

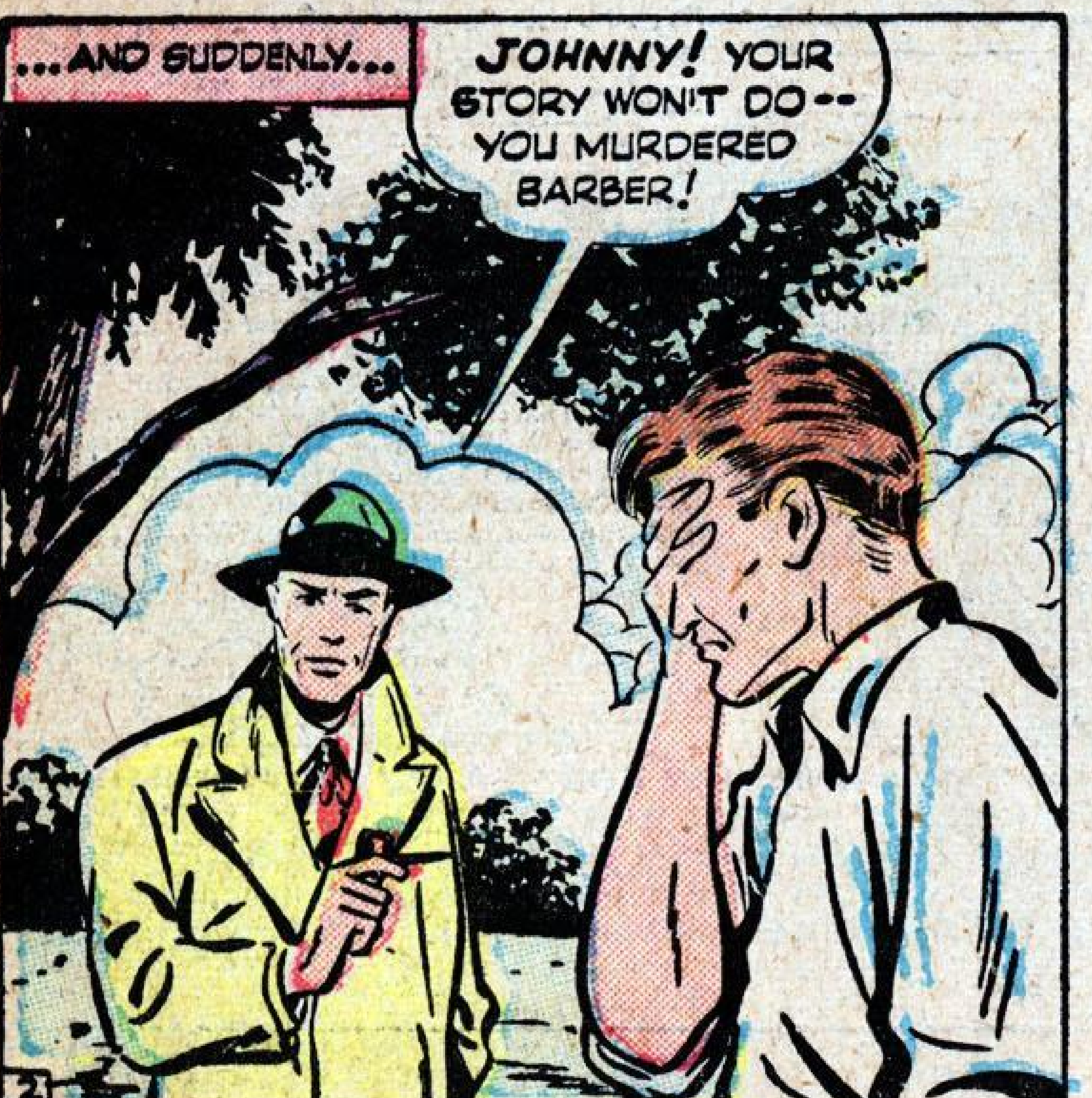

EVERYONE KNEW JESS BARBER WAS A MISER, AND THAT HIS LIFE SAVINGS WERE HIDDEN IN HIS HOUSE! SOME TRIED TO SWINDLE HIM--OTHERS TRIED TO SELL HIM EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN--WHILE A FEW WERE BRAZEN ENOUGH TO TRY TO STEAL IT OUTRIGHT!
SURE I HAVE MONEY HIDDEN IN MY HOUSE! AND I AIM TO HOLD ON TO IT!
"JESS BARBER"
POOR FOOL! HE DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT I, TOO, WOULD LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON HIS MONEY! BUT I'M A VERY PATIENT GUY!
AS LONG AS THAT MONEY IS IN THAT HOUSE, I'LL FIND IT... YEAH, EVEN IF I HAVE T' KILL T' GET IT!
"SAM SILO"
"JOHNNY"
...AND SO ONE DAY!
GIT OFF'N MY PROPERTY, SAM SILO! AND IF I EVER KETCH YA AGAIN--I'LL SHOOT TO KILL!
LET ME HANDLE HIM, BOSS--SO HE WOULD NEVER COME SNOOPIN' FOR YOUR MONEY AGAIN!
EVERYBODY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHERE MY MONEY IS--BUT THEY'LL NEVER GIT IT, JOHNNY! NEVER!
YOU OLD SKINFLINT! SURE EVERYONE IS AFTER YOUR MONEY--EVEN ME! BUT I'LL WAIT--AND ONE OF THESE DAYS YOU'LL SLIP UP, AND JOHNNY WILL BE A VERY RICH MAN!
AND SO, ONE RAINY NIGHT...
THERE HE IS--GOING TO BED--AND EVERY MISER COUNTS HIS MONEY BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP!
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU KEEP YOUR MONEY!
NO, DON'T! NO... I'LL GIVE YOU HALF! NO!

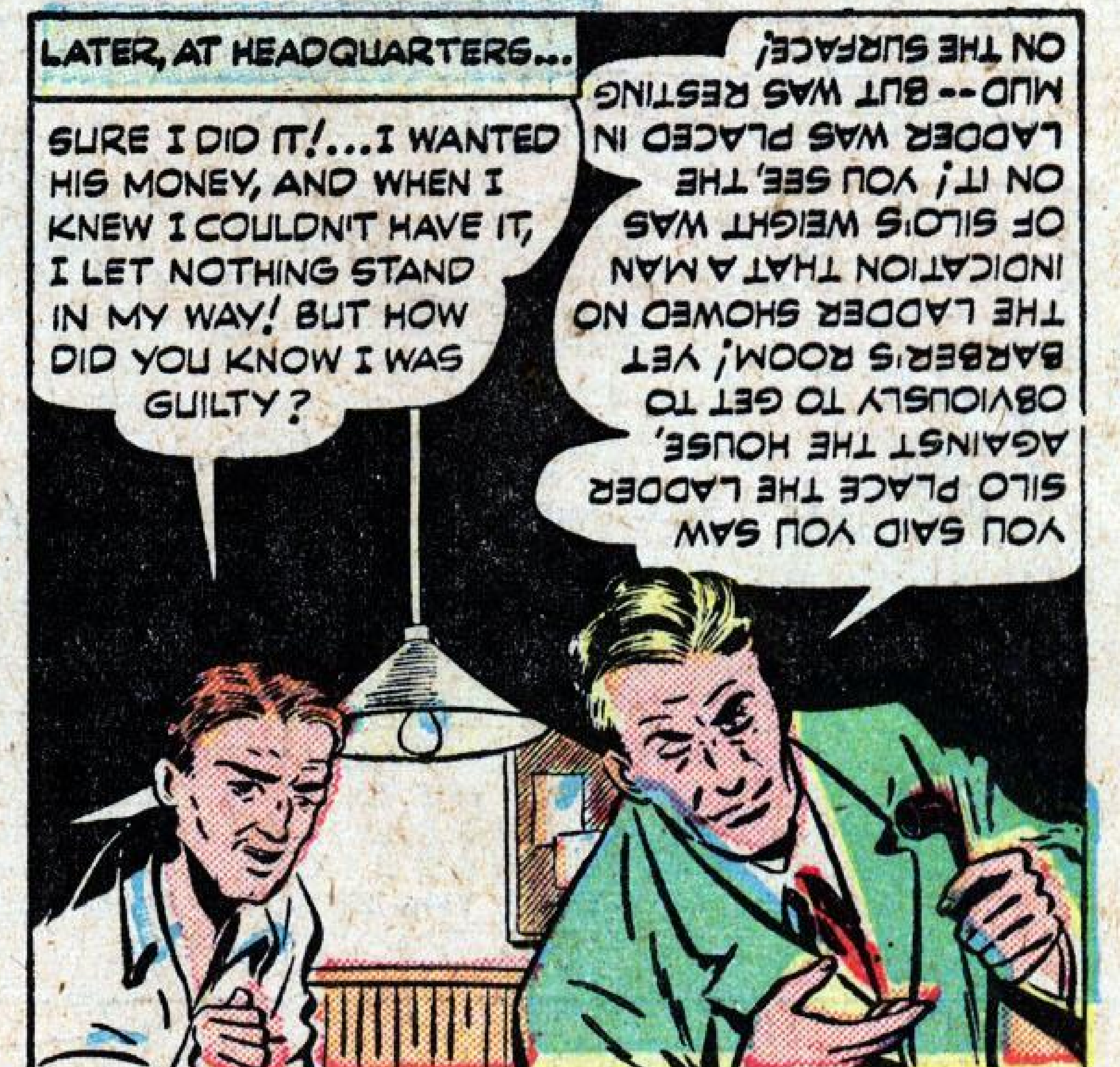

HOURS LATER DETECTIVE SKIP MC'COY INVESTIGATES JESS BARBER'S DEATH!
SAM SILO DID IT! I SAW HIM PLACE THAT LADDER AT THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE! I ASKED HIM WHAT HE WANTED, AND HIS ANSWER WAS THE BUTT OF A GUN ON MY HEAD! I AWOKE HOURS LATER AND FOUND MY BOSS--DEAD!


SILO IS BROUGHT TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!
HE LIES! SURE I WAS TRYIN' TO GET HIS MONEY -- SO WAS EVERYONE ELSE! BUT I WASN'T HERE LAST NIGHT!


JOHNNY, WAS THAT LADDER TOUCHED OR MOVED IN ANY WAY?
NO! IT'S EXACTLY AS SILO PLACED IT...


MC COY SCANS THE AREA CLOSELY FOR POSSIBLE CLUES...

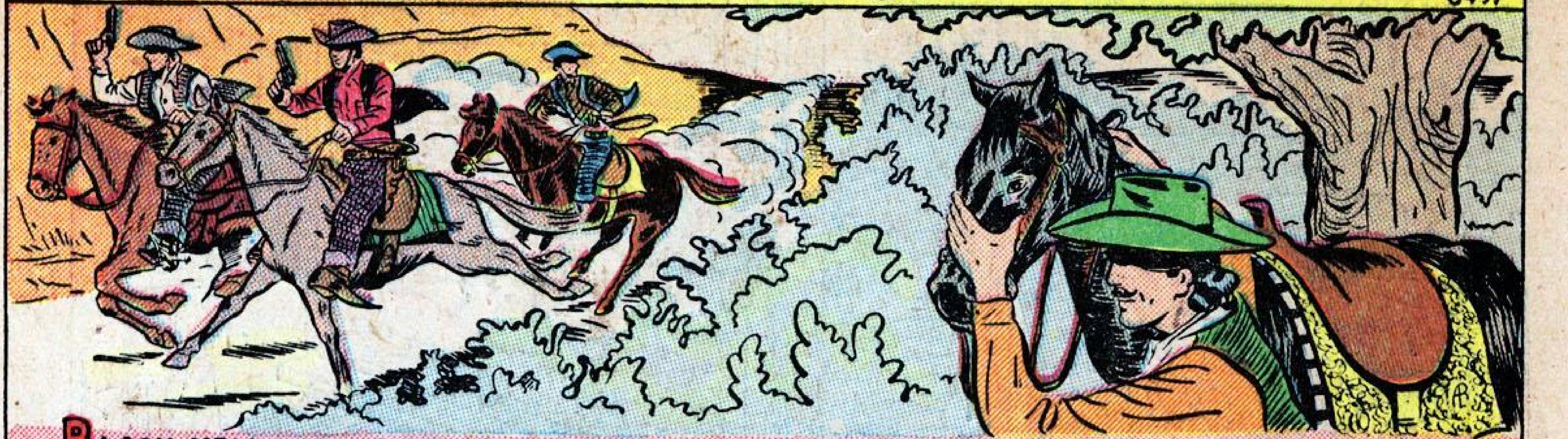

...AND SUDDENLY...
JOHNNY! YOUR STORY WON'T DO-- YOU MURDERED BARBER!


LATER, AT HEADQUARTERS...
SURE I DID IT!...I WANTED HIS MONEY, AND WHEN I KNEW I COULDN'T HAVE IT, I LET NOTHING STAND IN MY WAY! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS GUILTY?
YOU SAID YOU SAW SILO PLACE THE LADDER AGAINST THE HOUSE, OBVIOUSLY TO GET TO BARBER'S ROOM! YET THE LADDER SHOWED NO INDICATION THAT A MAN OF SILO'S WEIGHT WAS ON IT! YOU SEE, THE LADDER WAS PLACED IN MUD-- BUT WAS RESTING ON THE SURFACE!

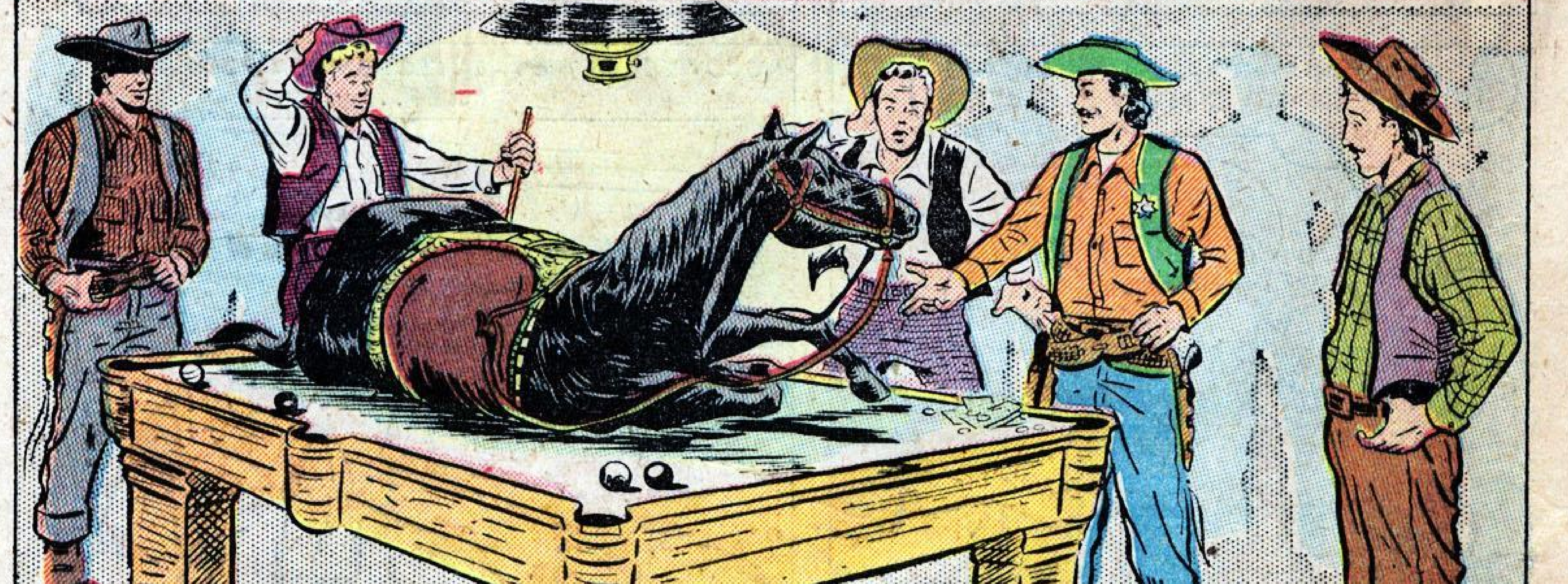
TURN PAGE UPSIDE DOWN FOR SOLUTION!

SCRAPBOOK OF THE WEST

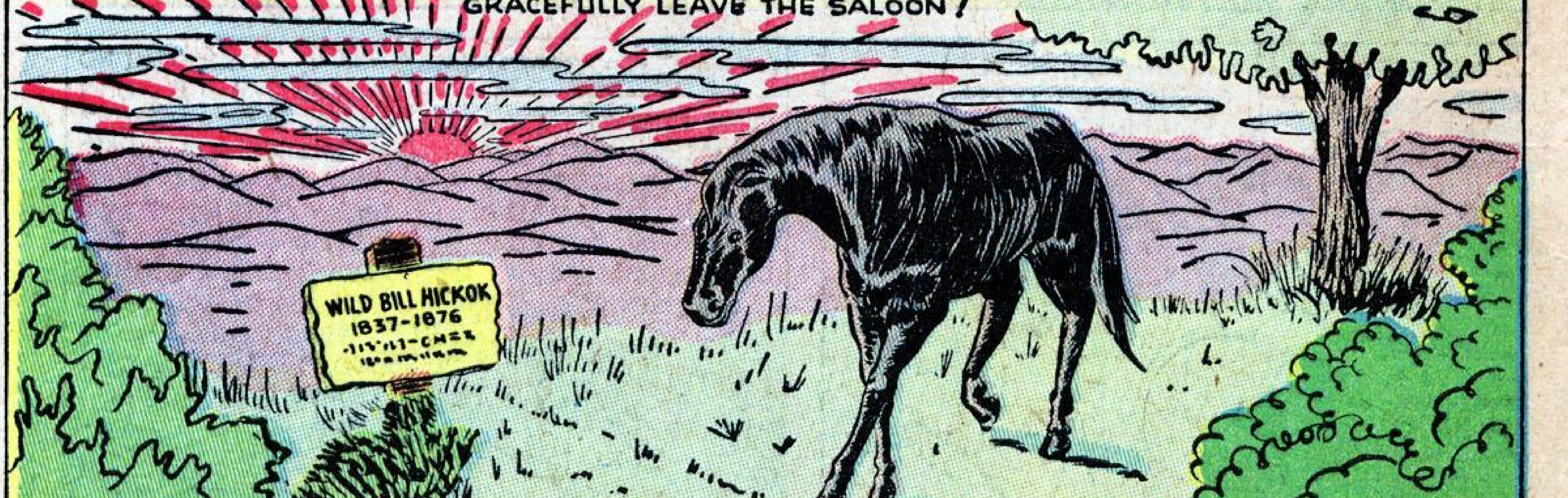
6497



BLACK NELL WAS THE PROUD MOUNT OF THE FAMOUS FIGHTING MARSHAL, WILD BILL HICKOK! SHE WAS A LOYAL, ONE-MAN ANIMAL AND NEVER ALLOWED ANYONE BUT HER MASTER TO SADDLE HER! NELL WAS AS BLACK AS A MOONLESS NIGHT AND AS SMART AS A WHIP! "SHE KNOWS MORE THAN A JUDGE," WILD BILL USED TO BRAG! MORE THAN ONCE, THE GALLANT MARE SAVED THE MARSHAL'S LIFE WHEN THE TWO WERE OUT SCOUTING OR HUNTING BADMEN!



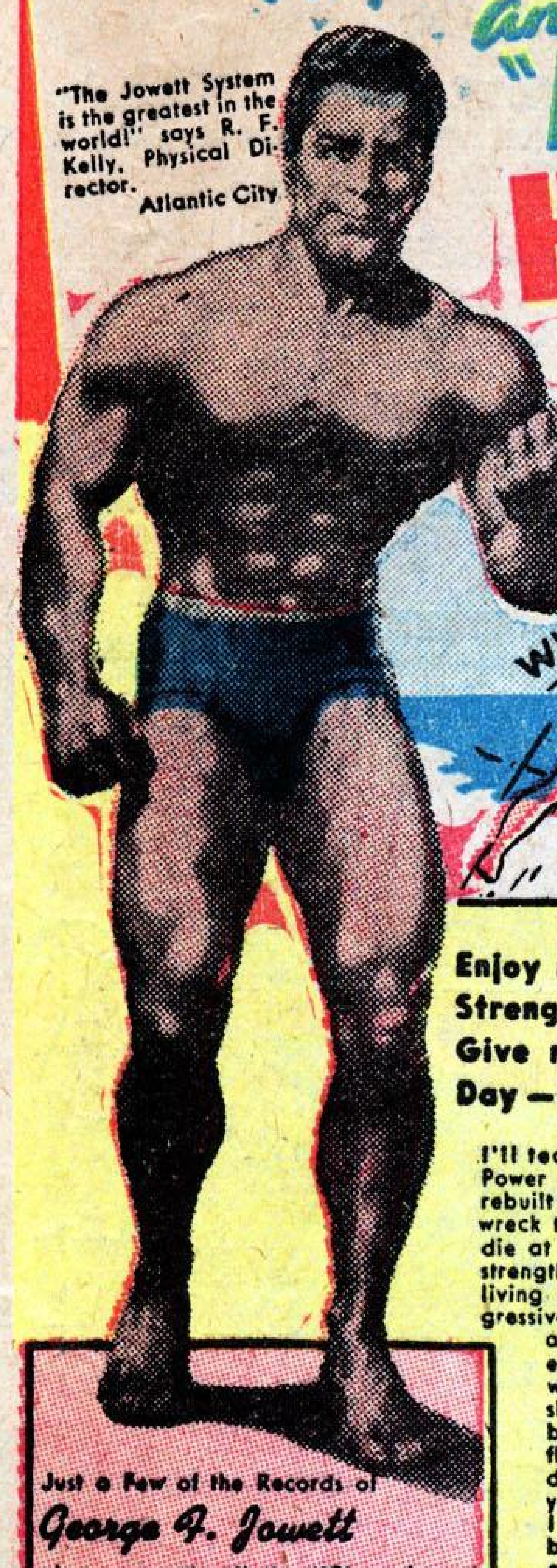
BLACK NELL WAS A PLAYFUL ANIMAL AND FULL OF TRICKS! OLD-TIMERS STILL TELL, WITH A CHUCKLE, OF THE ***BILLIARD-TABLE ROUTINE!*** WHILE NELL WAITED OUTSIDE THE TOWN'S SALOON, WILD BILL WOULD MAKE WAGERS THAT HIS MARE COULD COME INSIDE AND LIE DOWN ON THE BILLIARD TABLE! BETS WERE LAID AND HICKOK WOULD GIVE A LOW WHISTLE! BLACK NELL WOULD CLIMB THE STAIRS, OPEN THE DOOR AND, TO THE AMAZEMENT OF ALL CLIMB ON THE BILLIARD TABLE! ANOTHER WHISTLE AND NELL WOULD GET UP AND GRACEFULLY LEAVE THE SALOON!



BLACK NELL AND HER MASTER GALLOPED THROUGH THICK AND THIN FOR YEARS! THEN WILD BILL WAS MURDERED AND THE BLACK MARE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED! SHE WAS LAST SEEN STANDING OVER HER MASTER'S GRAVE! SOME SAY SHE RAN AWAY AND BECAME THE LEADER OF A HERD OF WILD HORSES! OTHERS SAY THAT THE LOYAL HORSE SIMPLY WALKED AWAY INTO THE DESERT AND DIED OF A BROKEN HEART!

Let's Go, Pal!
I'll prove I can make you
an "ALL-AROUND" HE-MAN
FAST —or it won't cost you a cent—
says George F. Jowett—World's Greatest Body Builder

"The Jowett System is the greatest in the world!" says R. F. Kelly, Physical Director. Atlantic City



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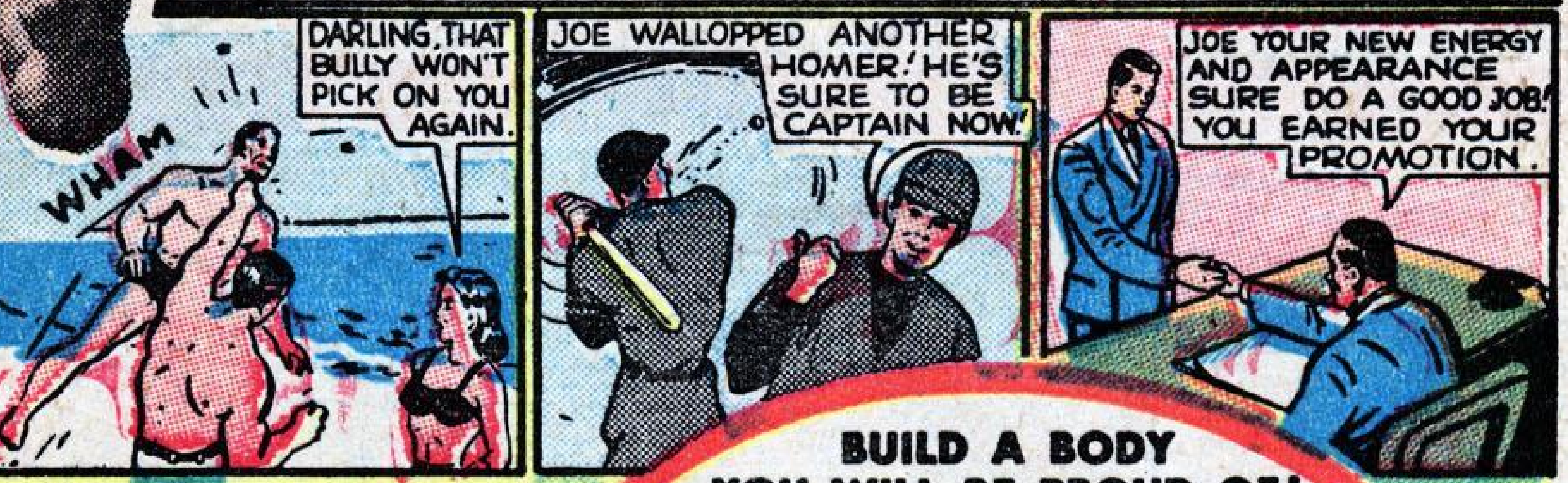
DARLING, THAT BULLY WON'T PICK ON YOU AGAIN.
WHAM
JOE WALLOPPED ANOTHER HOMER! HE'S SURE TO BE CAPTAIN NOW!
JOE YOUR NEW ENERGY AND APPEARANCE SURE DO A GOOD JOB! YOU EARNED YOUR PROMOTION.

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Give me 10 Easy Minutes a Day — Without Strain!

I'll teach you the "Progressive Power Method" through which I rebuilt myself from a physical wreck the doctors condemned to die at 15, to the holder of more strength records than any other living athlete or teacher! "Progressive Power" has proven its ability to build the strongest, handsomest men in the world. And I stand ready to show you on a money back basis — that no matter how flabby or puny you are I can do the same for you right in your own home. Let me prove I can add inches to your arms, broaden your shoulders, give you a man-sized chest, powerful legs and a Rock-like back — in fact, power pack your whole body so quickly it will amaze you! Yes, I'll jam you with power and self-confidence to master any situation—to win popularity—and to get ahead on the job! Through my proven secrets I bring to life new power in you inside and out, until YOU are fully satisfied you are the man you want to be.

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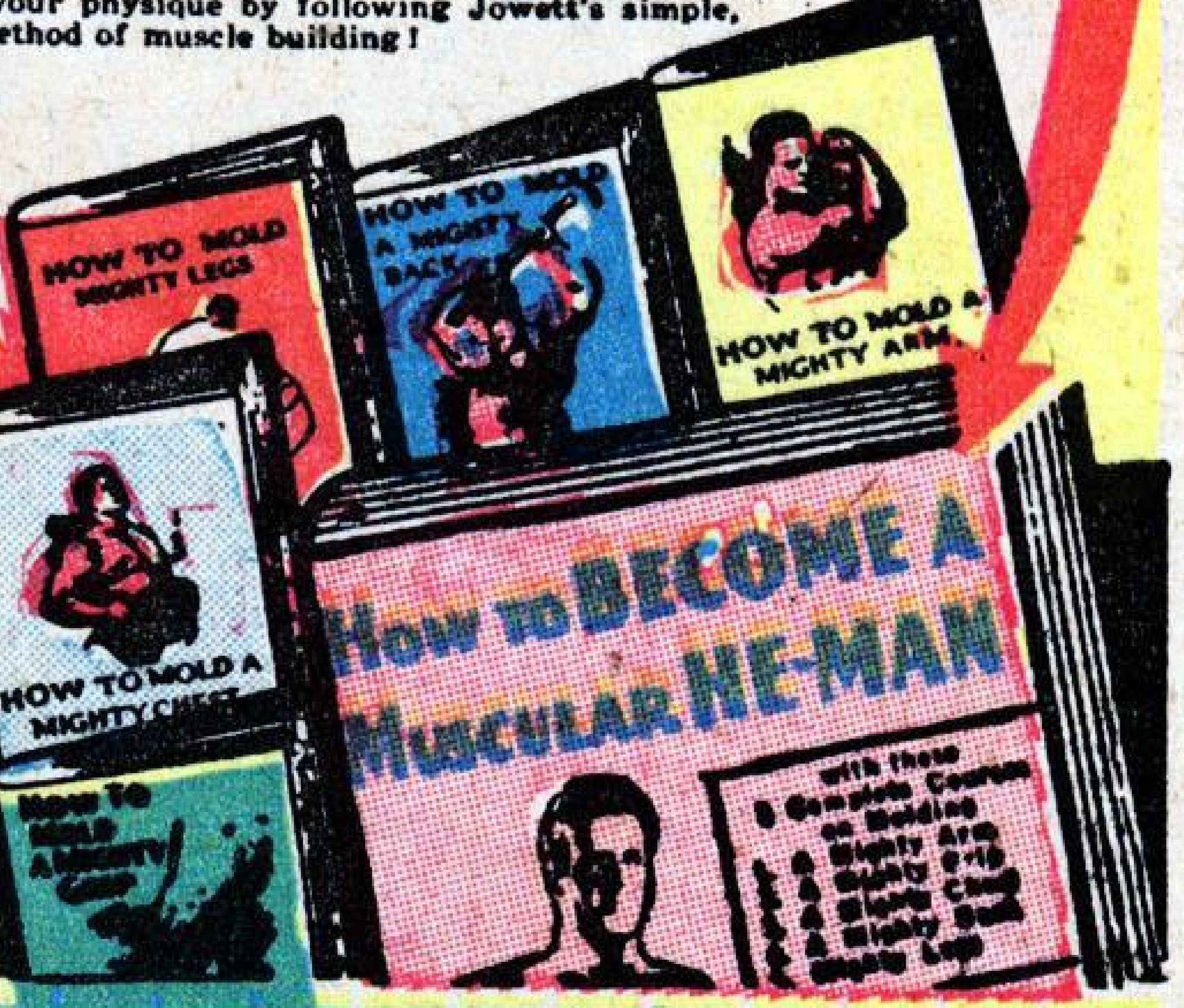
HOW TO MOLD MIGHTY LEGS
HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY BACK
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How to BECOME A MUSCULAR HE-MAN

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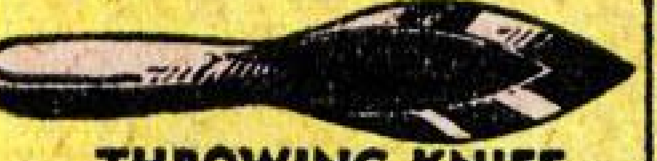

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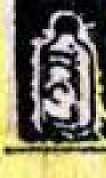

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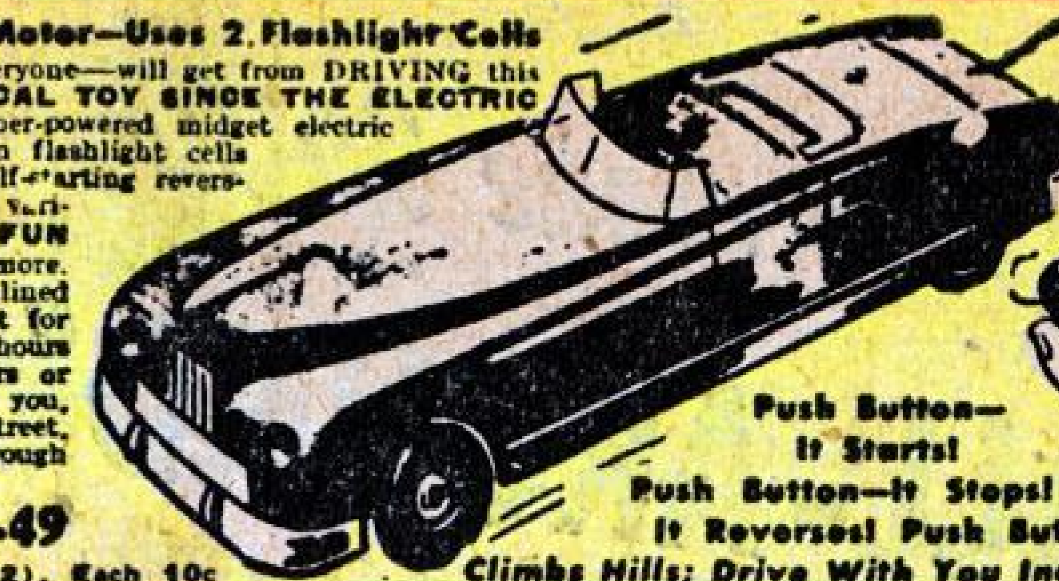

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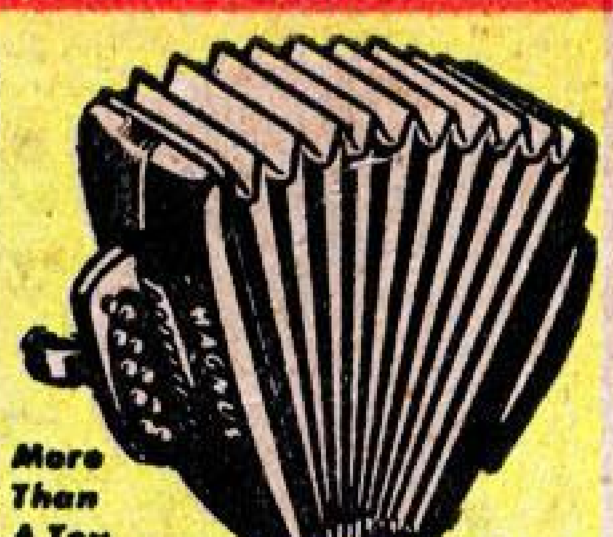

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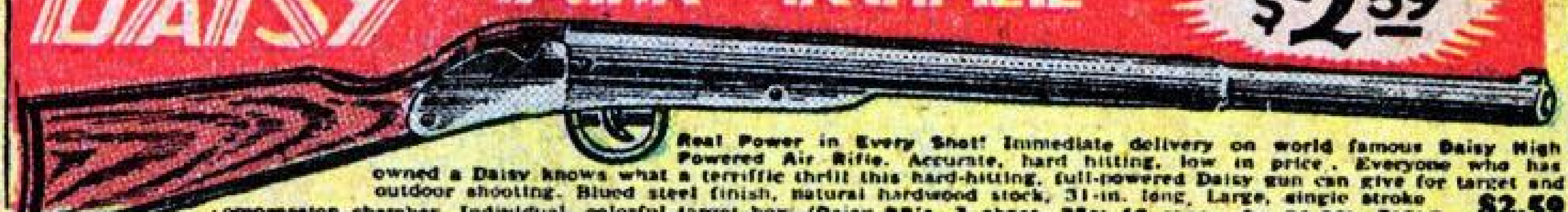

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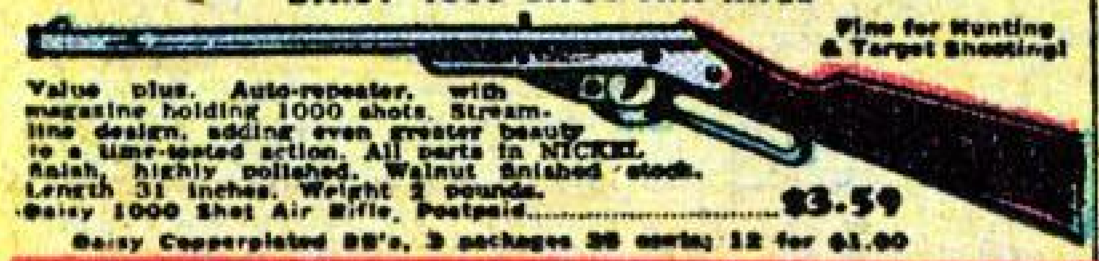

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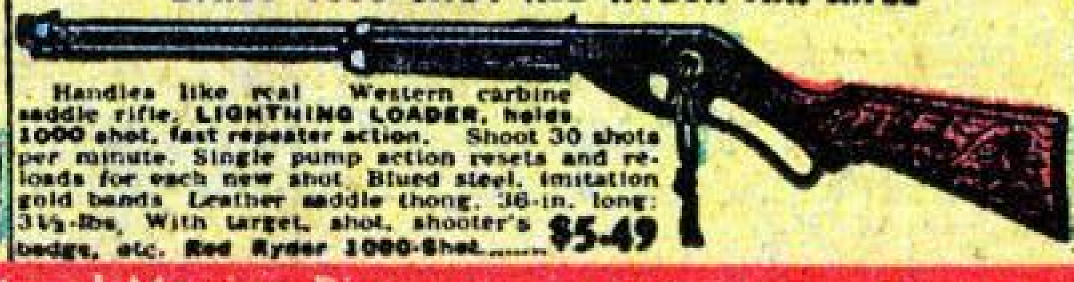

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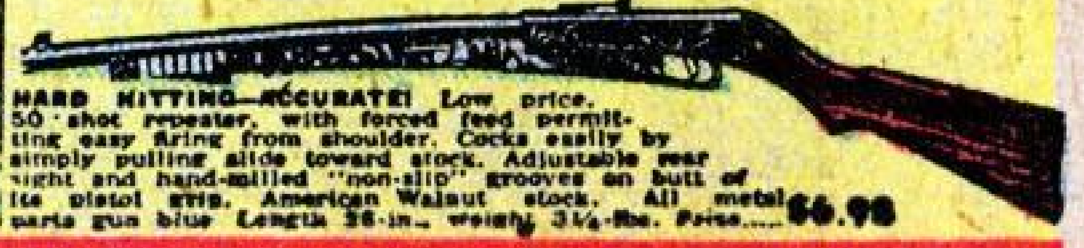

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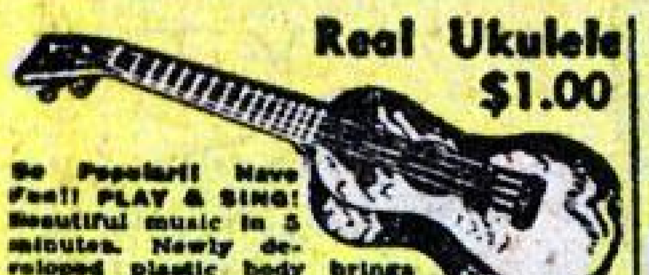

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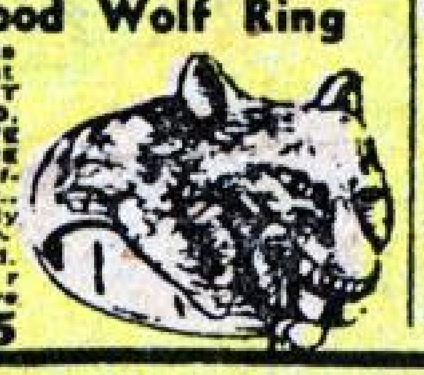
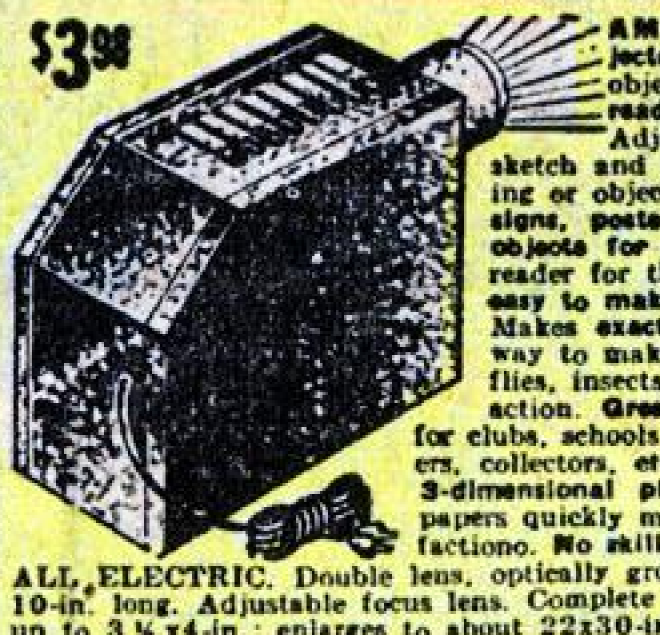
Hollywood Wolf Ring

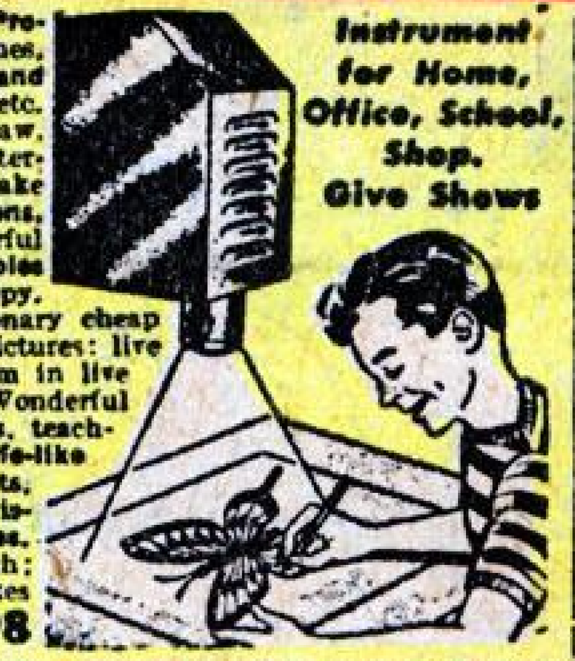


Warns the girls (or boys) that you are OUT FOR NO GOOD, and they'll LOVE YOU EVEN MORE FOR IT! Terrific time-saver. Truly beautifully designed, big-sized wolf's head. Excellent for self-defense. Give size. Postpaid **$2.95**

$3.98

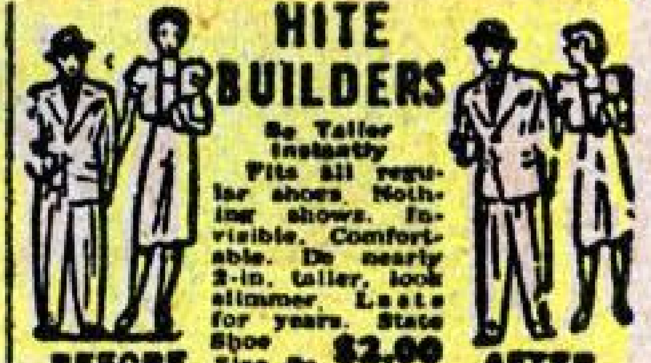


AMAZINGLY USEFUL INSTRUMENT. Miracle Projector projects and enlarges clippings, pictures, sketches, objects, maps, etc., in full natural color correctly and readable (does not reverse) on wall, paper, table, etc. Adjustable focus; project large or small. Learn to draw, sketch and letter this easy way by copying any picture, lettering or object right over projected image on paper. Easy to make signs, posters, cartoons, sketches. Magnify stamps, specimens, objects for close examination. Magnifies 50 areas. Wonderful reader for those with weak eyes. Photo enlargements and copies easy to make without negatives; use any picture, photo or copy. Makes exact positive enlargement, large or small. Revolutionary cheap way to make photo enlargements. Project natural movinng pictures: live flies, insects, puppets can be projected on screen and see them in live action. Great money maker doing work and giving shows. Wonderful for clubs, schools, home, office, shop, science work. Used by artists, teachers, collectors, etc., etc. Special arrangement projects startling, life-like 3-dimensional pictures. Exact duplicates of diagrams, blueprints, papers quickly made. See it; use it; money back guarantee of satisfactiono. No skill; no experience; nothing more to buy for most uses. ALL ELECTRIC. Double lens, optically ground, handsome enameled steel case. 7½-in. high; 10-in. long. Adjustable focus lens. Complete except for lamp (uses any household lamp). Takes up to 3¼x4-in.; enlarges to about 22x30-in. With illustrated instructions; tells how to use for all types of enlarging, projection, copying, photo prints, etc. Price Postpaid **$3.98**



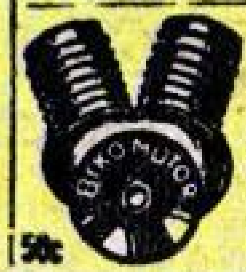
Instrument for Home, Office, School, Shop. Give Shows

HITE BUILDERS



Be Taller Instantly. Fits all regular shoes. Nothing shows. Invisible. Comfortable. Be nearly 2-in. taller, look slimmer. Lasts for years. State Shoe Size. Pr. **$2.00**

Bike-O-Motor



Dummy Motor Gives Bike Looks and Noise of Motorcycle

Faster you go, louder the roar. Fits any bicycle. Looks good; use with or without noisemaker. Price.............. **50c**

Extra Noisemaker Tabs. Set............ **10c**

Night or Indoor Pictures With Any Camera

Pocket Flash Unit; smallest fotoflash unit available; 4½-in reflector, 5x1½-in. cell case. ONLY............ **$1.95**

Midget Camera

99c

Uses Color or Black & White Film

"Secret" Pictures—Vest Pocket Camera

Midget camera takes secret pictures. Actually conceal in palm of hand! Easy to carry, easy to use. Black and white or color pictures. Standard Eastman 828 film. Bakelite case, and good quality lens and shutter. 8 pictures 1¼x1½-in. on each roll. Beautiful enlargements. Only 2x3-in. (Leatherette Eveready Case 50c) CAMERA ONLY...... **99c**

Black & White Film 35c Roll, 3 Rolls for $1.00

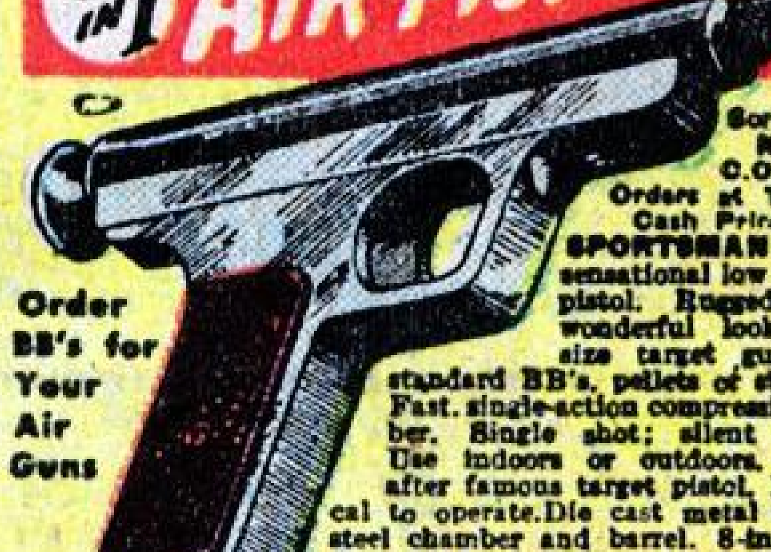
SORRY—NO C.O.D.'s AT THESE CASH PRICES

REPEATING BB SLINGSHOT

180 SHOT. Magazine load slingshot. Designed for accuracy and power. Long distance shooting, hard hitting. Fire 50 shots per minute. More powerful all-metal construction, live-rubber cords, non-slip shot holder. Price...... **98c**

3 in 1 AIR PISTOL $3.49

2 for $6.50



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Order BB's for Your Air Guns

SPORTSMAN JR.—sensational low priced air pistol. Ruggedly built, wonderful looking, full size target gun shoots standard BB's, pellets or steel darts. Fast, single-action compression chamber. Single shot; silent shooting. Use indoors or outdoors. Modeled after famous target pistol. Economical to operate. Die cast metal non-slip moulded grip; machined steel chamber and barrel. 8-in. long; 4½-in. deep; weighs 15 oz. Order plenty of ammunition. ONLY.. **$3.49**

Shoots BBs Darts Pellets

No C.O.D.

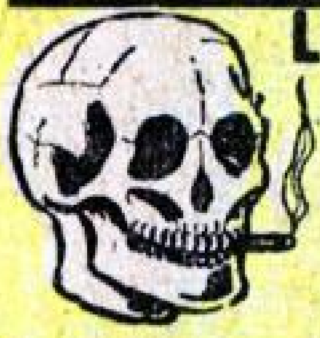
BB's, 3 pkgs. 25c; .177 pellets, 500 for $1.50

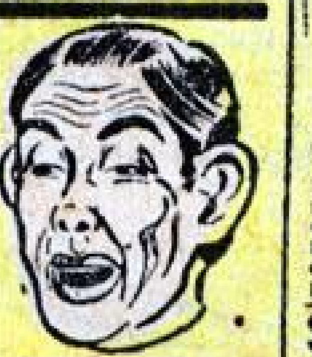
Steel darts, 35c pkge.; holster, 50c.

100 POWER TELESCOPE LENS KIT

See Craters on Moon! See objects 100 diameters larger; area thousands of times larger! See rings of Saturn, moons of Jupiter, double stars. Amazing magnification of distant objects. Easy to build in one evening. Finished 3-in diameter 75-in focal length ground & polished objective lens, plus all eyepieces and lenses needed to give magnification of up to 100 power. With illustrated directions for mounting. Finished lenses only; tripod not included..... **$2.50**

LIFE-LIKE RUBBER MASKS





TALK, SMILE, DRINK

Quick, complete, realistic latex rubber mask; on or off in seconds. Fits right down to collar over entire head. Thin rubber reflects your own expressions and makes them "come to life"; horribly realistic. You can see and act naturally.

Horrible Life-Like Skull....$1.98

Comic Mad Man (Goofy)....$1.98

IDENTIFICATION BRACELET

Extra Heavy, Aviator Type

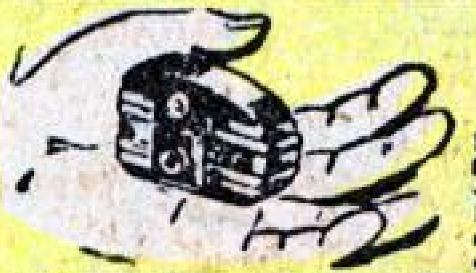
Massive link, heavy plate, rugged looking. For HE-MEN. Smartly styled, but not gaudy. Copy of sterling silver bracelet costing $15.00. Practical. We do not engrave; your local jeweler can put on name and address. Add 20% Tax **$1.50**

Self Generating Flashlight

No Batteries Pocket Size

Generates its own electricity—always ready for use. Amazingly small in size, only 2½x2-in. Full, brilliant light. No batteries to deteriorate, bulb lasts indefinitely. Wonderful for camping, home, pocket, auto. Plastic case. Complete, ready for life time service. ONLY.......................... **$2.98**

Pocket Size Radio



Take It With You Wherever You Go

Beautiful midget radio with built-in phone. Plastic case. Easily carried in pocket or purse—ready for use. Only 4X2½X1½ inches. USES NO BATTERIES—NO ELECTRICITY—HAS NO TUBES. Crystal detector. Brings in stations up to 50 miles. Just connect aerial and ground and it is ready to play. Postpaid Only...................................... **$3.99**

Radio Noise Eliminator & Aerial

3-in-1

Better radio reception, get longer distances. Wave trap & aerial tuner. Filters out noise. Made & guaranteed by ICA. COMPLETE.......................... **$1.00**

Watch It Change Color! LIVE CHAMELEON

50c

REAL LIVE PET; EASY TO KEEP

Get one of these most wonderful creatures. Watch it change color. Study its habits. Wear one on the lapel of your coat as a curiosity. Shoots out its tongue to catch flies while in the air! Goes for months without food. Almost 4-in. long. Live delivery guaranteed. Allow 14 days for delivery. Price . . . **50c**

Chameleon Food, Package. .20c   Lapel Pin & Chain. .15c

Live Turtle 50c; Live Turtle With Any Name on Back 85c; Live Alligator $3.95

Fencing Set

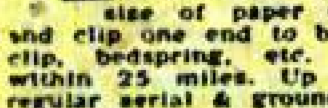
HAVE FUN FENCING

$2.50 SET OF 2

Learn to Fence! Fight with swords (foils). Teaches you the art of self defense same as in boxing. Set consists of 2 steel foils (swords) 3 feet in length, with an aluminum guard and complete instructions on how to fence. Teaches you to think and act quickly. Plenty of fun with this sport—be the champ swordsman! Foils equipped with hand guard and rubber tip. Sensationally low priced.

Set of 2 Foils and Instructions, Price.... **$2.50**

Super Power Midget Radio with Crystal Diode



Super-sensitive germanium crystal diode is a radio detector by itself. size of paper clip! Connect phone and clip one end to bike frame, telephone clip, bedspring, etc. Brings in stations within 25 miles. Up to 150 miles with regular aerial & ground. No electricity; no batteries. Complete except for phone and wire. Developed for radar, performs at high level of volume. No cost to operate **$1.95**

SUPER CRYTAL DIODE. Postpaid....

Single Phone, $1.25; Double Headset $2.50

BROADCAST THRU YOUR RADIO

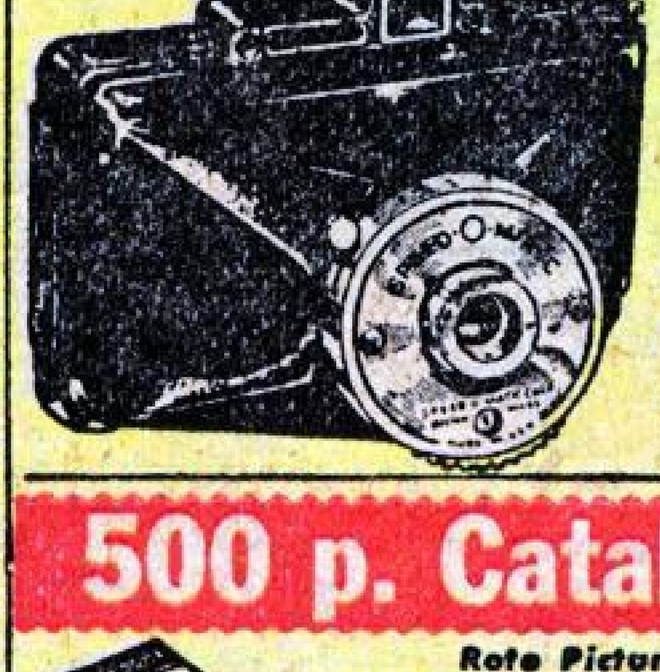
Broadcast your voice on programs coming through your radio set—make announcements from any part of the house—inject wise cracks, sing or mystify friends. "Radio Mike" made especially for home use. Attached in a jiffy. Also put on own programs at home, parties, club affairs. Barrels of fun. Easy to operate

Radio 'Mike' $1.00

6 Ft. Leather WHIP

Train animals! Crack the whip! Powerful, hard plait genuine rawhide 4-ply whip, hand loop. Over 6-ft. long. Each Only............ **$1.98**

10 Foot Texas Leather Whip, $3.29



Camera Takes, Develops & Prints Pictures At Once

FINISHED PHOTO READY IMMEDIATELY!

Almost self-acting from start to finish. Just think, complete 2x3-in. photo a few minutes after you snap picture. Real fun for amateurs and others. Marvelous new-type camera. Hold camera, aim at object, press shutter and picture is taken; a few minutes later hand them beautiful finished picture. **NO DARKROOM NECESSARY.**

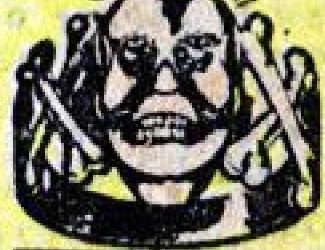
Big Money Maker for You at Resorts, Fairs, Etc.

Sell pictures quicky for 35c to 50c—cost you 8c. Deliver finished picture while they wait. No salesmanship required—they beg you for it. Take wonderful pictures. 6 lens openings with built-in exposure meter guide—no guesswork. Just aim and fire. Made for amateur and beginner, but gives professional results! Take portraits, groups or landscapes. Impossible to overdevelop. You always know if you have the picture you want right away—no waiting. Takes direct, positive prints, no negatives to bother with. Lustrous black plastic camera, 3x4x5-in. Pictures 2x3-in. Complete with developing tank, instruction booklet, etc.

SPEED-O-MATIC SELF-DEVELOPING CAMERA. Postpaid............ $8.95

SET OF FILM PAPER AND CHEMICALS FOR 12 PICTURES. Postpaid.. $1.00

Skull Ring



Eyes Flash In Dark!

Skull & crossbones ring. Sterling silver. Brilliant sparkling red stones make eyes glitter. State size..... **$1.98**

Surprise Package $1.00

A Bargain & Thrill

Columbus took a chance—why not you? Made up to get rid of surplus items, samples and close-outs we get from all over world. Be a sport; get a real thrill, a surprise & big bargain or your money back EACH **$1.00**

500 p. Catalog, 7,000 Novelties 10c

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Roto Picture Section, 3,500 Illustrations, Beautiful 6-Color Cover

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Billfolds
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Disguises
Fireworks
Exercisers
Magnifiers
Telescopes
Funmakers
Slide Rules
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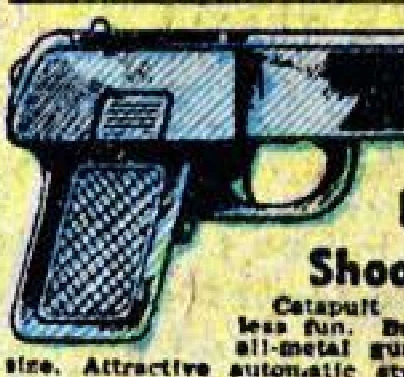

BB & Pea Shooting Gun

Catapult action. Harmless fun. Brightly polished all-metal gun. Full size. Attractive automatic style. **49c**

Peas or BB's, 3 Pkges. for **25c**

America's Leading Novelty House Since 1914

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WHICH ONE SHALL WE SEND YOU?

Any item rushed to you completely postpaid if you remit with order. Or if you prefer, we will ship C.O.D. plus a few cents postage. BUT Send this coupon while the supply lasts!

- **13 Inches High**
- **Lifelike Appearance**
- **She Can Be Washed**
- **She Has Moving Eyes**

Here she is now, that CUDDLY, HUGGABLE, love-me baby Gorgeous Blondie. She is 13" high and her soft, smooth body is of REAL RUBBER WONDERSKIN. Every little mother will want Blondie for her carriage. She's got Blondie curls aplenty, and they're thick and long just like real hair. Blondie's hair can be put up in ribbons at night and tuck her in bed and watch her long lashes sleepily close those big blue eyes. She rests soundly till her next day of fun. Every child will have the time of her life giving her body a bath and powdering her soft, baby RUBBER WONDERSKIN. She comes dressed in bright BIRTHDAY PARTY dress, cute panties, shoes and stockings. Wonderful, beautiful, amazing dolly is yours for this unbelievably low price. SEND NO MONEY. Remit with order and we pay postage or order C.O.D. plus postage.

IMAGINE ONLY $2.98 complete

JUST ARRIVED FROM SWITZERLAND!

NEW 1950 JIBBY CONVERTIBLE!

4 FORWARD SPEEDS!

1 - Low
2 - Medium
3 - High
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R - Reverse
• Brake lever

...new ...streamlined ...brakes, shifts, steers ...metal body in 3 colors

Here's a terrific and amazing new convertible that looks like a continental auto and handles just like the family sedan—only better! It shifts—breaks—steers... has 4 forward speeds (standard 3, plus overdrive)—reverses. Precision made in fine Swiss detail, plus all the "extras" of a top-quality convertible. Long, graceful lines; four genuine rubber wheels; twin headlights; a handsome grill; beautiful metal body in shiny enamel finish. Built to "take it". Fascinate your child with a really different toy. SEND NO MONEY. RUSH YOUR ORDER — TODAY! Remit with order and we pay postage, or C.O.D. plus postage.

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READY... AIM... FIRE!
OVER 2 FT. LONG!

THE SENSATIONAL

AIR-FIRE SUB MACHINE GUN!

FREE
PING PONG AMMUNITION
NOTHING TO GET OUT OF ORDER
IMPROVE YOUR MARKSMANSHIP
SHOOT INDOORS AND OUT!

Action! Target Practice! Marksmanship! AIR-FIRE SUB MACHINE GUN is loaded with shooting fun for Dad and Junior. Uses ping pong ball ammunition, which hits the target accurately, provides extra sport in chasing the bouncing balls. Draw the clamp and bango . . . split second timing shoots out this exciting ammunition. Can be used with perfect safety around the kiddies, in the home or out-of-doors. AIR-FIRE SUB MACHINE GUN will give you that practice which makes perfect . . . you'll astound your friends with perfect marksmanship, and enjoy a thrilling shooting sport. This sub machine gun is over 2 feet long . . . made of attractively colored aluminum and plastic, is strong, light and easy to handle. SEND NO MONEY—Rush Your Order Today! Remit with order and we pay postage, or C.O.D. plus postage.

Imagine only $2.98 COMPLETE WITH AMMUNITION

SQUEEZE ME... I COO!

Introducing— "CUDDLES"

- 13 INCH LIFELIKE DOLL
- WASHABLE RUBBER WONDERSKIN
- SHE DRINKS, WETS, SLEEPS, COOS

Every child's dream will come true with CUDDLES — sensational 13 inch DRINK-AND-WET DOLL of washable rubber WONDERSKIN — the amazing new lifelike doll skin! SHE COOS delightfully when you squeeze her, when you hug her. Adorable CUDDLES has long wavy hair, sparkling blue eyes that open and close. She drinks from her bottle with rubber nipple (included) and then wets her diaper. You can bathe her—move her cuddly arms, legs and head—make her walk, sleep and coo! SEND NO MONEY. (C.O.D., you pay postage. Remit with order, we pay postage.)

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TERRIFIC VALUE!

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THE ALL-FAVORITE MONEY MACHINE!

AMAZING

ROLL IN A BLANK SHEET PAPER

THRILLS EVERY GIRL AND BOY!

NOT TOY MONEY, BUT REAL SPENDING MONEY

MAGIC ENTERTAINMENT, MYSTIFIES YOUR FRIENDS

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDED WITH SET

OUT ROLLS REAL MONEY!

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A MILLION DOLLAR JOY IN A $2.98 TOY

It's thrilling fun to be a magician! But it's twice as wonderful to be a money-making magician, to baffle all your friends and family. With this amazing money machine you can perform real, mystifying magic. Think of the excitement when plain sheets of paper are placed in the machine, and as the rollers revolve, **OUT COMES REAL HONEST-TO-GOODNESS MONEY TO SPEND.** There's a magic trick, of course, that only you will know. You'll be the one magician in tremendous demand to perform your money magic! The whole family will find this remarkable money-maker thrilling entertainment. Rush your order NOW. **SEND NQ MONEY.** Remit with order and we pay postage or C.O.D. plus postage.

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Enclosed find: ☐ Check or M. O. ☐ C. O. D. plus postage.

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☐ JIBBY CONVERTIBLE ______ 2.98
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☐ MONEY MACHINE ______ 2.98
☐ CUDDLES ______ 2.98

Name ______
Address ______
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SEND TODAY!

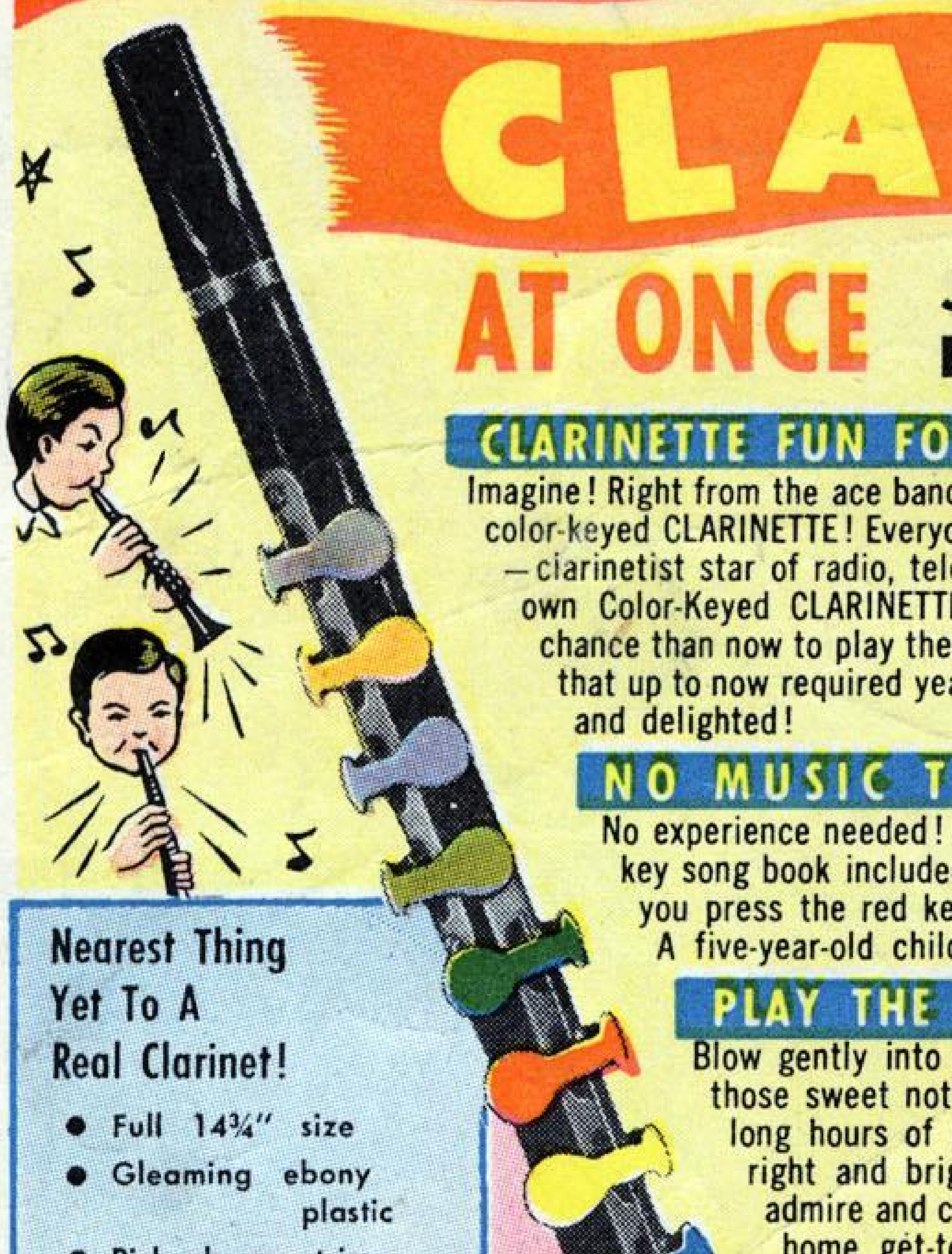
YOU TOO CAN PLAY

ARTIE SHAW'S

COLOR-KEY CLARINETTE

AT ONCE

Just follow the colors and play songs. Even If You've Never Played Before!



CLARINETTE FUN FOR EVERYONE—FROM 5 TO 50

Imagine! Right from the ace bandleader of 'em all—ARTIE SHAW!—comes thrilling color-keyed CLARINETTE! Everyone knows and loves the fine music of ARTIE SHAW—clarinetist star of radio, television, stage, and screen . . . and now with your own Color-Keyed CLARINETTE you learn to play real music! Never a better chance than now to play the tunes you've always favored . . . have musical fun that up to now required years of training! So quick and easy you'll be amazed and delighted!

NO MUSIC TO LEARN! Sound easy? It is easy! No experience needed! Just follow the wonderful easy-to-play giant color-key song book included free with this offer. A red note in the book . . . you press the red key! A green note means you press the green key! A five-year-old child can do it! Play using both hands right away!

PLAY THE VERY FIRST TIME YOU TRY

Blow gently into the specially designed mouthpiece, and listen to those sweet notes pour out! No special blowing method . . . no long hours of practice . . . no sore lips! The music comes out right and bright with no effort at all! How your friends will admire and cheer! You'll be playing at parties, parades, picnics, home get-togethers . . . anywhere, anytime!

Nearest Thing Yet To A Real Clarinet!

- Full 14¾" size
- Gleaming ebony plastic
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- 8 keys for 2-handed playing
- Special easy-blow mouthpiece
- Electronically tuned

FREE

IF YOU ORDER NOW!

For your very own . . . an autographed photo of famed instrumentalist ARTIE SHAW, who has thrilled millions with his clarinet music!

Sister And Brother
Mother And Dad
Everyone Plays!

10 DAYS FREE TRIAL!

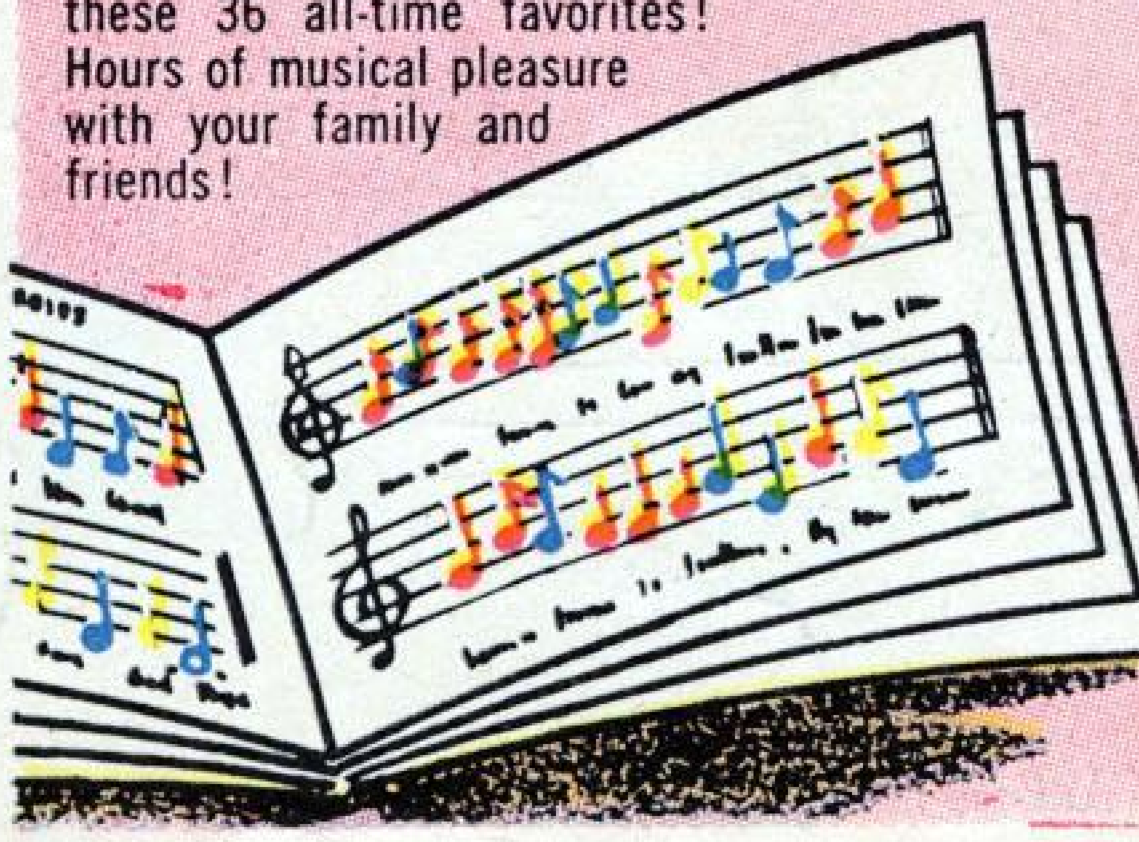
pay postman only $2.98 plus postage. To save postage, enclose $2.98. If you aren't thrilled with toy clarinet return for refund.

Only $2.98 complete for

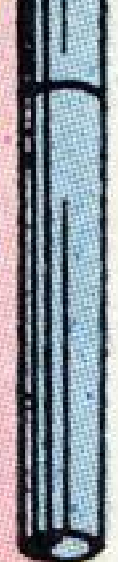
- CLARINETTE
- FREE Giant Song Book
- FREE Carrying Case
- FREE Autographed Artie Shaw Photo.

Also FREE!

Giant 36-page SONG BOOK worth $1 by itself—completely color-keyed! Follow the color arrangements, press the color keys, on toy CLARINETTE, play at once these 36 all-time favorites! Hours of musical pleasure with your family and friends!



At No Extra Cost!



Smart, sturdy carrying case

SEND NO MONEY — MAIL COUPON NOW

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Send me new ARTIE SHAW COLOR-KEYED CLARINETTE PLUS GIANT SONG BOOK, ARTIE SHAW PHOTO, AND FREE CARRYING CASE.

☐ I'll pay postman $2.98 each plus postage.
☐ I enclose $2.98 each. You pay postage.

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